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very scarce

M E M O I R S
OF THE
L I F E
O F
ROGER DE WESEHAM,
DEAN of LINCOLN,
BISHOP of COVENTRY and LICHFIELD,
AND
Principal Favourite of ROBERT GROSSETESTE,
Bishop of LINCOLN.

Being intended as a Prelude to the LIFE of the last mentioned
most excellent PRELATE.

WHEREIN

The detached Notices relative to Bishop WESEHAM are
collected together; and the Errors of former ANTIQUARIES,
concerning him and his Friends, are carefully and candidly
corrected, from the best AUTHORITIES.

By SAMUEL PEGGE, A. M.

Prebendary of BOBENHULL in the Church of LICHFIELD.

Laniatum corpore toto

Deiphobum vidi, et lacerum crudeliter ora.

VIRG. Æn. VI.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. WHISTON and B. WHITE in Fleet-street,
MDCC LXI.

MEMORIAL
OF THE
BISHOP

ROGER DE WESTHAM
BISHOP OF LINCOLN
Baron of Coventry and Lichfield

Thence known as ROBERT OF WESTHAM
Bishop of LINCOLN

Being inserted as a Preface to the 1st of the last mentioned
most excellent BISHOP

WILLIAM
The detached Notices relative to Bishop WILLIAM are
collected together, and the Bishop of former Annals
concerning him and his friends are carefully and exactly
corrected, from the best authorities.

BY SAMUEL JOHNSON, A.M.
Secretary of the Board of the Clergy of LINCOLN

Printed in the City of London
at the Press of J. JOHNSON, in Pall-mall

LONDON
Printed for J. JOHNSON, in Pall-mall

Viri verè boni, pii, eruditi,

(sic quidem videtur)

ROGERI DE WESEHAM,

Quondam Cov. et Lich. Diœc. Præfulis

Et Decani Cath. Eccl. Lincoln.

Grati animi ergò ;

Nec non in Gratiam

Dignissimorum ejus Successorum

Rev. admodum in Christo Patris

FRIDERICI Episcopi Lichenfis,

Et Rev. **JOHANNIS GREEN,**

Lindenfis Decani,

Magnorum sui Amicorum Patronorumque

Has qualescunque memorias

Contexuit

SAMUEL PEGGE, A. M.

Præbendæ de Bobenhull in Ecclesia Lichfeldensi

Ab eodem Veshamio fundatæ

Præbendarius.

Vin verò bonū, pū, eruditū,

(sic quidem videtur)

ROGERI DE WESTHAM.

Quondam Cov. et Lich. Dioc. Praefatus

Et Decani Cath. Ecd. Lincoln.

Grati animi ergo;

Nec non in Gratias

Dignissimum ejus Successorem

Rev. admodum in Christo

FRIDERICI Episcopi Lichenis

Et Rev. JOHANNIS GREEN

Lincolniensis Decani

Magnorum sui Antecessorum Praedecessorumque

Hic qualescunque memorias

Commemoravit

SAMUEL PEGG A.M.

Trasparenz de Bohemia in Ecclesia Lichenis

Ab eodem Vestimento fundat

Trasparenz

P R E F A C E.

THOSE that read merely for Amusement and Diversion, must certainly be disappointed in turning into these Memoirs, which, as they concern a Prelate of a studious Temper, and but little engaged in public Business, can afford no Entertainment to such as are Hunters after Pleasure, and want only to kill Time.

Embellishment is a Thing they are in their Nature incapable of; but still there is an Accuracy and Precision in these Matters, that are pleasing to many, and which by some are thought to have their Use; and this is what hath been chiefly aimed at in making the following Collection of Facts, and throwing them into a regular Series of Time; the Compiler desiring no more, than that it may be said of him,

—*Nil, O tibi, amice, relictum est:*

Omnia Deipho solvisti, et funeris Umbris.

And though after a Flow of so many Centuries, as from the thirteenth to the present Age,

almost nothing can be learned of Bishop *Weseham's* private and domestic Character, yet enough may be gathered from the Notices scattered in Authors, though so thinly strewed, to give us a general Idea of the Man, of his Goodness, his Piety, and his Learning, and to conciliate an Esteem and Veneration for his Memory. And I cannot but flatter myself, that even this little can hardly fail of being acceptable to those who stand in a Relation to him as his Successors in those Posts which he once so honourably filled; who may have any Connection with him, either by the Enjoyment of those Stalls of which he was the pious and munificent Founder, or by being Members, more generally, of those two large Churches, the Churches of *Lincoln* and *Lichfield*, in both which he formerly presided; and lastly, who consider him as being once the Head and Father of a very extensive Diocese, to which they may now belong.

It must be acknowledged, that all these Considerations together are but narrow-bounded, extending unto few; but something there is behind of a more general and comprehensive Nature, and that is the Friendship and Familiarity, that so constantly subsisted betwixt Bishop *Weseham*, and that splendid Ornament of his Times, *Robert Grosseteste*,

Grosseteste, Bishop of *Lincoln*. To have been beloved and patronized by *Grosseteste*, is itself some Degree of Praise, and will certainly raise a Curiosity in many, to know something of the Character and Quality of one who could so far engage the Affections, and Merit the Favour and Protection of that great and good Man.

I have had such frequent Occasion indeed to mention the Name of *Grosseteste* in the Course of these Memoirs, and some remarkable Transactions of his are so closely connected with the Subject of them, that I have been thereby induced to undertake a Work, which many have been desirous to see attempted, and which the late industrious Dr. *Knight* is said to have been engaged in, some Account of the Life and Conduct of this illustrious Prelate. The Execution of so extensive a Work, will, in some sort, depend on the Manner in which this short Sketch may be received, and on the Encouragement I may expect of such Communications and Assistance, as Gentlemen, conversant in these Studies, may be disposed to give, towards perfecting an Undertaking which must be attended with much Difficulty, Labour, and Expence, and consequently must stand in need of every friendly Aid.

But

But it may be proper, to open the Nature of my Design somewhat further, that Gentlemen from thence may be better able to form a right Judgment of it: Dr. *John Inett*, Precentor of *Lincoln*, has deduced the History of the *English* Church, (as a Continuation of Bishop *Stillingfleet's* Antiquities of the *British* Churches) with great Accuracy, Elegance, and Judgment, down to the Close of the Reign of that unfortunate Prince King *John*; and it is proposed to take up the Matter at that Period, and, continuing it for the Term of Bishop *Grosseteste's* Life, to interweave therewith the more material Transactions of this Prelate, he being very principally interested in most of the Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Reign he lived in, which was that of *Henry III.* the Son and Successor of King *John*. The whole will include the Space of about forty Years, which will be found to be pregnant with many considerable Events, both in the Literary, and the Ecclesiastical Way; and as these, we imagine, will be capable of receiving much Illustration, and at the same Time will be highly deserving of it, so a Work of this Nature, if tolerably executed, may become a proper Object of the public Attention.

M E M O I R S

M E M O I R S
O F T H E
L I F E
O F
R O G E R D E W E S E H A M.

AS Precision in ascertaining Facts is often of great Use in Inquiries of this Kind, I shall endeavour to keep this Point always in View, and to state Things with all the Accuracy I am able thro' the whole Course of these Memoirs. I know not therefore how I can more properly begin them, than by giving the Reader a preliminary Caution concerning the Subject of them.

Roger de Weseham [a], Bishop of *Cewentry* and *Lichfield*, must be carefully distinguished from another Person of the same Name, Archdeacon of *Rotbester*. This Caution is the more necessary, because some considerable Antiquarians, we find, have confounded them. Thus *Broune Willis* tells us [b], that Bishop *Weseham* was Archdeacon of *Rotbester* and *Oxford*; the former of which is by no Means true, for *Roger*

[a] *Wesham*, Tho. Wilkes. *Wesham*; M. Westmon. *Wesam*, Monasticon. *Weshamite* and *Weshamus*, Leland in Tanner. *Weshaam*, MS. at Oxford. His Christian Name has likewise been written *John*, Leland, in Tanner p. 750; but see Tanner p. 758; as likewise M. Paris, M. Westm. Annals of Burton, &c. who all agree in calling him *Roger*, as do the MS. at Oxford, and all the Chartularies at Lincoln.

[b] *Broune Willis* Survey of the Cathedrals, l. p. 387.

2 MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE

de *Wesenham*, Archdeacon of *Rocheſter*, did not flouriſh till many Years after the Death of our Prelate, to wit, A. D. 1294 [c].

What led my late good Friend Dr. *Willis* into this Miſtake, was a Paſſage, I apprehend, in Mr. *Le Neve*, where againſt the Year 1238 he places *Roger de Weſebam* amongſt the Archdeacons of *Rocheſter* [d]. 'Tis clearly an Error, for as he recites no ſuch Perſon as Archdeacon of *Rocheſter* in the Year 1294, when *Roger de Weſenham* undoubtedly filled that Poſt, 'tis very plain he eſteemed the Biſhop of *Coventry* and the Archdeacon of *Rocheſter* to be one and the ſame Perſon. However, he cites his Authority, *Coll. Kennet Folio*, from whence it appears at laſt, that the original Author of the Miſtake, was that great Antiquarian Biſhop *Kennet*.

It cannot at preſent be determined with any Certainty, of what Country our Prelate was. *Anti. & Wood*, citing *Thomas Eccleſton* [e], calls him *Weſenham* [f], and *M. Paris* in three ſeveral Places *Weſſham* [g], but elſewhere *Weſebam*, and this is the conſtant Orthography in the Archives at *Lincoln*. Now we find a Village of the Name of *Weſſenham* in the County of *Norfolk*, and another called *Weſſham* in *Suffex* [h], and the Cuſtom was certainly very general at this Time, for Perſons to borrow their Surnames from the Places of their Nativity. But whether his Lordſhip was born at either of theſe Places muſt remain Matter of Doubt, and be left to the Deciſion of the Reader.

[e] *Ant. & Wood Hiſt. et Antiq. Lib. iii. p. 393*. No Biſhop find another *Roger de Weſham*, Chaplain of *Bonteshall*, *Com. Derb. A. 1252*. This Perſon, as he was different from the Biſhop, was alſo probably different from the Archdeacon of *Rocheſter* [d]. *Le Neve's Faſti*, p. 253.

[e] He wrote the Hiſtory of the Settlement of the *Franciscans* in England, and his Work now remains in MS. in ſeveral Libraries. See Biſhop *Nicholſon's Hiſt. Lib. p. 148*. Edit. 1714.

[f] *Wood Hiſt. et Antiq. Lib. p. 71*.

[g] *M. Paris, p. 935. 943. 953*.

[h] *Spelman's Villare*.

born

'Tis equally uncertain where the Bishop had his puerile Education, but that he was sent immediately from School to *Oxford*, which University was then in a very flourishing State [i]; we have the express Testimony of *John Leland* [k]. He soon obtained the Character there of a very promising Youth, which deservedly endeared him then to the ruling Part of the University, and the great Hopes he at that Time raised, were afterwards exceeded by the Event. "Adolescens cum optimæ Indolis, they are *Leland's* Words, tum spei longe maximæ. Unde et Academia Proceres singulari erga eum adfecti candore. Tantumque adfuit, [leg. absuit] ut Doctorum expectationem, ingentem quidem illam, de se conceptam falleret, ut pro magnis, quæ sperabant illi, vel maxima facile exhibuerit."

He turned his Mind, after all the necessary preparative Studies had been dispatched, chiefly to the Prosecution and Cultivation of Divinity. *Matth. W.* [l], styles him *Theologus*; *Mr. Le Neve* [m], and *Dr. Willis* [n], *Doctor or Professor* in that Science. But his Character, as a Scholar, was more general, and even above the common Rate of those Times, *Matthew Paris* giving him this short, but very comprehensive *Elogium*, "Vir moribus et scientia eleganter insignitus [o]."

The first Preferment he enjoyed in the Church, so far as I can discover, was the Prebend of *Wildland* in the Church of *St. Paul's* [p]. *Henry de Cornhill*, afterwards Dean of this Church, exchanged this Prebend for that of *Holywell* aliàs *Finsbury*, as I judge from the Difference of their Value in the First Fruits Office, and *Weseham* succeeded him; but in what Year this was, and to what Patron *Roger* was

[i] Wood Hist. I. p. 119.

[k] Leland in Tanner's Biblioth.

[l] *Theologus*, M. Westm. p. 320.

[m] Fassi, p. 165.

[n] Tom. II. p. 116.

[o] M. Paris, p. 661. See also below in that Page.

[p] Newcourt's Repert. I. p. 221.

obliged for this Promotion, whether to *Eustachius de Fataconberge*, or *Roger Niger*, Bishop of *London*, is at present entirely unknown.

Whilst our Student resided in the University, he easily became known, through the Pregnancy of his Parts, the Depth of his Learning, and the Credit of his Academical Exercises, to that discerning Patron of all learned Men in those Times, *Robert Grosseteste*, afterwards the celebrated Bishop of *Lincoln*. *Grosseteste*, at that Time, was much Resident in the University, where he had been Chancellor, was Doctor of Divinity, Public Lecturer both in the Philosophical and Theological Schools, and in short, made the greatest and most consummate Figure in every imaginable Light. In the Year 1235. he was consecrated Bishop of *Lincoln*, and very soon after that, even the very next Year, he gave his Friend *Weseham* a public and very high Testimony of his Favor, constituting him Archdeacon of *Oxford* [q]; a Preferment of great Weight, and of especial Trust and Confidence, in regard of that Influence and Authority which the Archdeacons of that Title then had in the University [r].

Bishop *Grosseteste*, during his Residence at *Oxford*, had read Public Lectures in the School of the *Minor*, or *Grey Friars*, founded by *Agnellus Pisanus*; and was succeeded in that Province by one *Peter*, who was afterwards promoted to a Bishopric in *Scotland* [s]. On this last Vacancy, by the

[q] *Le Neve*, p. 165. *Willis*, II. p. 116. *Claus.* 21 H. iii. m. 13. dorso. [r] *Wood Hist.* I. p. 60. 88. 93. 94.

The Person that succeeded *Weseham* in this Dignity I take to have been *Walter*, for he was Archdeacon of *Oxford* A. 1244. *Wood's Hist.* p. 93. A Circumstance which I mention, on Account of the Omissions of *Le Neve* and *Browne Willis*, in respect of him; the former specifying *Robert de Mariscis* A. 1248. (whereas 'tis plain there must have been one before him, *Weseham* being made Dean of *Lincoln*, as we shall see, A. D. 1239, and even Bishop of *Litchfield* A. 1245) and *Browne Willis* naming nobody till A. 1261, and thereby omitting both *Walter* and *Robert de Mariscis*.

[s] *Wood's Hist.* I. p. 71.

Preferment

Preferment of *Peter*, Bishop *Grosseteste* importuned Archdeacon *Weseham* to undertake the Employment, and the Archdeacon to oblige his Friend and Patron complied with his Request [*t*], though he was not of the *Franciscan* Order, any more than *Grosseteste* himself was [*u*]. He might begin his Prelections A. 1237 or the Spring of the Year 1238.

Roger de Weseham was succeeded in these Schools by *Thomas Walleus*, a Person of great Note, and made both Prebendary and Archdeacon of *Lincoln*, by Bishop *Grosseteste* [*w*]: But indeed this Lecture was supported by the Labours of some of the most considerable Men of that Age.

Not long after this, an Opportunity presented itself to the Bishop, of bringing his favourite Associate nearer to him, and placing him in the great and rich Deanery of *Lincoln*; which though now of considerable Value, was of much greater, at the Time we are speaking of, as will appear in the Sequel.

But we must enter a little more minutely into the Detail of this Affair, by considering first, when *Roger de Weseham* was collated to this Dignity; and then, by what means it happened, that Bishop *Grosseteste*, his constant Friend, had the Disposal of this noble Preferment.

William de Tournay was installed Dean of *Lincoln* A. D. 1223, but according to *Willis* was suspended in 1232, and *Roger de Weseham* was then substituted in his Room [*x*]: In another place the same Author, incurring the Fault of

[*t*] Wood Hist. I. p. 71.

[*u*] Leland in Tanner, who commits however a small Mistake, as to this Matter, which ought to be rectified: He represents Archdeacon *Weseham* as the immediate Successor of *Grosseteste* in this Affair of the Lecture; but the Truth is, as appears from *Wood*, who writes from good Authority, namely that of *Thomas Eccleston*, that the above mentioned *Peter* interposed between them. See also Leland himself in Tanner, p. 750.

[*w*] Tanner, ibd.

[*x*] Willis, II. p. 75.

Inconsistence, informs, that *Roger de Weseham*, Successor of *William de Tournay*, was not made Dean of *Lincoln* till A. D. 1245 [y], which last Date he took, as appears to me, from Mr. *Le Neve*, who intimates the same [z]: but both these Dates are wrong.

First, we find *Roger de Weseham*, Archdeacon of *Oxford*, A. 1236, and reading Lectures at *Oxford* after that, which makes it highly improbable he should be Dean of *Lincoln* A. 1232; which likewise appears to have been before his Patron *Grosseteste*, by whose Favor entirely he acquired this Promotion, was made Bishop, for he was not consecrated till A. D. 1235.

But there is clear and direct Proof that *William de Tournay* was actually Dean of *Lincoln* A. D. 1234, and consequently was not deprived till after that Year.

“ Sciant, &c. quod Ego *Hugo de Waleton* accepi a venerabili viro *Willielmo de Thornaco* Decano *Linc.* sex acras
 “ Terre arabilis in Campo de *Newbald*, illas scil. quas *Matheus de Hadersegh* dedit Ecclesie de *Cestrefeld* die dedicationis ejusdem Ecclesie Habend. et Tenend. &c. Testibus Hug. de Linacre Petro de Brumenton Willielmo de
 “ Hwitenton [a] Jordano de Albetot Roberto fratre ejus
 “ Johanne del Ho Waltero clerico Johanne de Pecco Stephano fil. Glay Richero Sordan de Harperford Thoma de
 “ Derby et aliis. Dat. apud *Cestrefeld* die Mercur. in Crastino Assumpt. beate Marie in Anno Gratie M°.CC. tricesimo quarto [b].”

This Instrument is curious in many Respects, and is full to the present Purpose, the Date being so clear. It appears, that Dean *Tournay* was not suspended A. 1232. he being in Possession of the Deanery A. 1234; or, at least, if he was

[y] Willis, p. 116. [z] Fasti, p. 144. 165.

[a] Whittington, as now it is written.

[b] Chartulary of the Dean of *Lincoln* in the Archives of that Church.

then suspended, that he was again restored, and that *Weseham* succeeded him not in the Decanal Dignity till after the Year 1234.

But now, on the other Hand, it is equally incredible, that *Weseham* should not be appointed Dean till A. 1245. since in the Beginning of that Year, he was consecrated Bishop of *Coventry* by the Pope at *Lyons*, as will be shewn in the Sequel.

The Truth then I take to be, that *William de Tournay* was suspended A. 1239, on a certain Occasion to be mentioned below, and so Mr. *Le Neve*, I observe, puts it in one Place [a], on the Authority of Bishop *Kennet's* Collections, and 'tis pity that he and Dr. *Willis* should ever have deserted that Authority; that the Consequence of the Suspension was Deprivation; and that thereupon, Archdeacon *Weseham* was substituted Dean in his Place. The above Date is happily confirmed by the Testimony of the late Mr. *Thomas Simpson* of *Lincoln*, who, from some Evidence he had seen, has corrected the Date 1232. in his Copy of *Willis*, into 1239, as I have been lately informed by his Son, the Reverend Mr. *Thomas Simpson*, Prebendary of *Lincoln*, and my very valuable Friend.

We enquire next, by what Coincidence of Circumstances Bishop *Grosseteste* came to have the Disposal of this Dignity.

At the Commencement of the Year 1239, the Bishop turned his Thoughts upon examining into the State of the Cathedral Church of *Lincoln*; and no doubt but of common Right he had a Power of visiting his own Church; but the Dean and Chapter, nevertheless, pleading Privilege and Exemption, and insisting that the Members of that Body ought to be visited by nobody but their own Dean, were disposed to dispute his Authority. *William de Tournay* was then Dean, and in the very first Year of this Rupture, was

[a] Fasti, p. 144.

deprived,

deprived, for his Opposition to the Bishop, his Disobedience and Contumacy. This Quarrel betwixt Bishop *Grosseteste* and the Chapter of his Cathedral Church was of long Continuance, being not finally determined till the Year 1245. when the Bishop obtained a Decision very much, though not altogether, in his Favor, from Pope *Innocent IV.* for it should be noted that there were other Points in Dispute between the Parties, besides the Article of Visitation, but this being the principal Subject, I thought it sufficient for the present Purpose to mention this, and for the same Reason, I shall drop the Business of this Quarrel here, there being no Necessity of Proceeding any farther in it at this Time.

But does it not appear very strange, that in the Heat of this Contest, the Bishop should be able to get his particular Friend and Favourite, *Roger de Weseham*, substituted into the Place of the deposed Dean? We are expressly told by *Leland*, that *Weseham* obtained this Dignity by the good Grace and Favor of the Bishop, “*Capitonis Beneficio [Veshamius] fit Decanus Lindianæ Ecclesiæ,*” are his Words [d]; and for my Part I have no doubt of the Fact, though I have no other Way of accounting for it, than by the following Conjecture.

The Chapter, at this Time, were possessed of the Privilege of chusing their own Dean, who was to be approved and confirmed by the Bishop. Now the Chapter were Parties in this Quarrel, into which they entered principally on the Dean's Behalf, and in support, as they alledged, of his undoubted Rights from Time immemorial, he claiming to be the sole Visitor of the Cathedral Church of *Lincoln*. They could not therefore approve, nor willingly acquiesce, in Dean *Tournay's* Deprivation, and upon that Footing would probably refuse to proceed to the Election of another

[d] See also *Wood's Hist. I. p. 71.*

OF ROGER DE WESEHAM.

Person in his Place. This of Course would produce a Devolution to the Bishop, who taking the Advantage, as we may rationally suppose he would, collated his Friend Dr. *Weseham*, and had him immediately installed. The Doctor seems, so far as one can judge at this Distance of Time, to have been a Person of an easy, quiet, and peaceable Disposition, and his former Obligations to Bishop *Grosseteste*, added to these sociable good Qualities, were certainly Reasons sufficient, why the Bishop should desire to see him in *Tournay's* Place, who had been so uncomplying, so obstinate and refractory. And in regard to the Chapter, as *Weseham* was a Man of known and approved Worth, of indisputable Learning; and in all other Respects perfectly eligible, they might possibly be the more passive, and give the less Obstruction to the Measures the Bishop, they saw, was taking, on that Account. Many of them might probably reason thus; that were they to acquiesce in this Act of his Lordship's, it might tend to conciliate his Mind towards them, to qualify and soften his Resentment, whilst, at the same Time, it could do the Merits of their Cause no Harm; for the Affair of the Visitation might nevertheless go in their Favor, and should that be the Case, all these Proceedings of the Bishop, would in all Probability be reversed, *Weseham* be deprived, and *Tournay* restored.

But be these Things as they will, for I pretend to no more than Conjecture on this Head, *Weseham* was certainly placed at this Time in Dean *Tournay's* Stall, but in this, however, he was very unfortunate, namely, that this Contest and Embarrassment continued so long afterwards on Foot; the Papal Decision not being promulged, till he had relinquished the Deanery; insomuch that one has Reason to fear, that the whole Time of his Incumbency at *Lincoln*, was rather troublesome and disagreeable to him, than productive of much Happiness; since a peaceable and benevolent Mind

could

could not with any Comfort and Satisfaction see so much Discord and Animosity prevailing in a Place where nothing ought to reign but Harmony ; nor so much ill-blood circulating in those members over which he was to preside as the Head.

The Dean, as now we must call him, was scarce warm in his Stall, when *Thomas de Melfanby*, Prior of *Duresme*, renounced his Election to that See, because he found so much Difficulty in getting Confirmation, the King, *Henry III.* not being to be prevailed upon by any means to give his Assent to his Election. This Resignation was in the Year 1240, and the Monks of the Chapter were just on the Point of Beginning a new Process for the Appointment of another Person, when lo ! his Highness was pleased to protest, upon the Occasion, against some certain Ecclesiastics, that were particularly obnoxious to him, but likely to be chosen, and amongst the rest, against the Dean of *Lincoln* [e].

What the King meant by this Step, was, to pave the Way for the Election of *William*, Elect of *Valentia*, an Uncle of the Queen's, who he was very desirous should succeed to the See of *Duresme* ; but he missed his Aim, for though the Monks were not so uncivil as to fix upon any of those Persons whom his Highness had so openly excepted against, yet they would not take *William* of *Valentia*, but elected *Nicholas de Fernham*, a Scholar of great Eminence, employed about the Queen's Person both as a Divine and a Physician, and of whom, his Highness, destitute of all Pretence or Shadow of Objection, was obliged, in a Manner, to approve.

The Monks of *Duresme*, it seems, might be inclinable to chuse Dean *Wesébam* ; a convincing Argument of his established Reputation, in all Parts of the Kingdom ! but why

[e] Wharton Angl. Sacr. vol. I. p. 736.

should

should the King so studiously oppose his Election? It was certainly branding him with a very invidious Mark; and was owing, I conjecture, to his Attachment to Bishop *Grosseteste*; for *Simon de London*, another of the Bishop's Friends, was amongst the excluded. *M. Paris*, under the Year 1241, relates a Quarrel, which ran to a great Height, between the King and Bishop *Grosseteste*, about the Promotion of *Simon* to the Prebend of *Tame*, in the Church of *Lincoln*, in Preference to *John Mansel*, the King's Chaplain, who had been provided to it by the Pope. The Contest, and the Event, are related that Year, but the Broil probably began the Year before, and so long as there was a Difference open between the King and the Bishop, the former had Reason for barring the Adherents and fast Friends of the latter. But this I offer in no other Shape than a Conjecture.

A. D. 1245. the Pope, *Innocent IV.* called a general Council at *Lyons* in *France*, and *Roger de Weseham* attended; it was usual both for Archdeacons, and the Deans of Cathedral Churches, to be summoned on such Occasions [f]. But *Roger* attended this Council, as a Bishop, as we shall see. Bishop *Grosseteste* went to *Lyons*, 18 Nov. 1244 [g], about the Affair of Visitation abovementioned, as likewise did the Dean and Canons of *Lincoln*. Soon after [h], and before the Council sat, which began 28 June 1245. his Holiness consecrated the Dean Bishop of *Coventry* and *Litchfield*, which I prove thus; *M. Paris* says, *Richard de Witbe* was consecrated Bishop of *Chichester* at the same Time, and the Annals of *Waverley* testify he was consecrated about Lent [i], and consequently, before the Council sat. The learned and most respectable Editor of Bishop *Godwin* is not so

[f] *M. Paris*, p. 265. *Walt. Hemingsford*, p. 574.
p. 649. [b] *Wikes*. p. 45. *M. Paris*, p. 649.

Waverl. p. 206.

[g] *M. Paris*.

[i] *Annal*.

accurate in this Matter, as I could wish; the Bishop's words are "Consecratus est Lugduni Anno 1245." and this is true enough; but here the Annotation is, "in Concilio Lugdunensi una cum Richardo Episcopo Ciceſtrenſi, et Bonifacio Archiepiſcopo Cantuariæ." And for this *M. Paris* is cited. But *M. Paris* does not say, it was done in the Council, nor that all three were consecrated together; indeed, as I take it, Archbishop Boniface was consecrated before the other two. And whereas *Thomas Wikes* says, under the Year 1241, "obiit Hugo de Patishull Coventrenſis Episcopus, successit ei Rogerus de Weseham Decanus Lincolniensis." We must understand it, not of immediate Succession at that Time, but after an Interval of some Years [k], which will oblige us to take this Matter a little higher, and to relate the Transactions that passed, in respect to this See, after the Death of Bishop Patishul.

Hugh de Patishul, Bishop of Coventry and Litchfield, departed this Life A. 1241. on which Occasion, as *Browne Willis* says, the Chapter (I hope he means as composed of the two Chapters of Coventry and Litchfield united, but I suspect he intends the Chapter of Litchfield only, following *Le Neve*) elected "Richard Grassus, Abbot of Evesham, who" was confirmed by the Pope; but he dying at Riola in "Gascoigne, Dec. 8. 1242. without Consecration, one Robert de Monte Pessulano was nominated to this See by the Pope, who finding great Opposition made to him, by the King, resigned his Pretensions to the Pope, who substituted in his Stead Roger de Weseham." This is *Dr. Willis's* Account of the Matter, which is very lame and imperfect, and not altogether conformable to Truth.

First, As to Richard le Gras, or Grassus [m], he had been a Monk at Westminster, and Prior of Hurley, in the

[k] See Wikes afterwards, p. 46.

[l] *M. Paris*, p. 661.

[m] *Monasticon*, l. p. 152. *M. Westm.* p. 308.

County of Bedford; but 25 Sept. 1236. was elected Abbot of Evesham, received Benediction from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield on Advent Sunday at Heywode, and was installed 7 Dec. [n]. I note these Particulars, because they are omitted by Dr. Willis, in his History of the mitred Abbeyes, when he professedly speaks of this Person [o]. But if I may be allowed to enlarge the Account, I would add, he had been Keeper of the Great Seal, and had discharged the Office of Chancellor [p]; was a favourite Counsellor of the King and had been much employed in public Business [q]; and moreover, was particularly recommended by his Highness to the Electors, on the Vacancy of the See, by the Death of *Hugh de Patishul* [r]. In the Assembly of the two Chapters at Lichfield [s], he was chosen by some of the Canons of Lichfield, but the major Part of the two united Chapters elected, in Opposition to him, *William* [t] de Monte Pessulano, or Montpelier, Precentor of Coventry. The Matter, by Reason of this Disagreement amongst the Electors, was brought before the Pope, who was pleased to confirm the Election of *Richard*; but he unfortunately died at *Riola*, and there was buried, very honourably, by the Bishop of that City [u]. He has a great Character given him by *M. Westminster*. “Vir discretus et circumspectus, jure civili et canonico eleganter expeditus” [w]. And to the same Purpose are the Words of *M. Paris*. “Vir fidelis et prudens, et in rebus agendis circum-

[n] M. Westm. p. 296. Widmore, on Westminster Abbey. p. 62.

[o] Willis's mitred Abbeyes, I. p. 94.

[p] He kept the Seal three

Years with Honour, and then resigned it. M. Paris, p. 519. 583. [q]

M. Paris, p. 420. 597. Rymer's Foedera, I. p. 344. [r] Idem, p.

577. He seems to have been also in great Favour with Otho the Legate.

p. 533. [s] So says Thomas de Chesterfield in Wharton's Angl. Sacr.

[t] His Name was William, not Robert, as Le Neve and Willis call him.

Wikes, p. 46. writes him falsely De Monte Possulano. [u] M. Paris,

p. 567. [w] M. Westm. p. 308.

“spectus [x];” infomuch that he was by no means unworthy of the King’s Recommendation, who was much concerned at his Death. His Character seems to have been that of a Person well versed in Business.

According to this Narrative, drawn from the two *Matthews, Paris* and *Westminster*, *Richard* was not canonically elected, as having the fewer Number of Votes. But if the Matter were but once litigated, it was enough for the Pope, who would be sure to oblige the King with his Man, the King and his Holiness at this Time ever going Hand in Hand, in these Cases.

But now the Annals of *Tewkesbury* say, in Contradiction to this, that *Richard* was duly elected in the Year 1241, but that not long after he renounced his Election, for some Reason or other, and thereupon both Chapters proceeded jointly to a new Election, and agreed in the Person of *William de Monte Pessulano* [y]. Wherefore, as *Richard* died in *Gascogne*, we are obliged to suppose he was there, not on his Journey to the Pope, or for any Purpose relative to his Election, having relinquished his Pretensions to the Bishopric before, but attending on the King, who was then in those Parts, making an inglorious Campaign. He went to the King in Autumn 1242, with Supplies; and the Hardships and Fatigue of the Passage, laid the Foundation of his Death [z].

Thomas de Chesterfield, the professed *Litchfield* Historian, varies, for his Part, from both these Accounts; he represents the Numbers, on the Scrutiny, as equal, at least he makes no Difference, from whence there would of Course be a Devolution, or at least Appeals from both Sides, to the Pope. Such was the unhappy Condition of the Church of *England*, through the Enchroachments of the Papacy, at this Time.

[x] *M. Paris*, p. 519.
Angl. Sacr. I. p. 440.

[y] *Annal. Theokesb.* apud *Wharton* in
 [z] *M. Paris*, p. 598.

OF ROGER DE WESEHAM. 15

The Historian then adds, that the Matter coming before the Court of *Rome*, Pope *Innocent* set aside both the Elects, both *Richard le Gras*, and *William de Monte Pessulano*, and col-
lated a third Person, *Roger de Weseham*, to the vacant See [a]. And thus, if we are to believe him, *Richard le Gras* made no opening, either by his Death, or by renouncing his Claim, nor did the Monks and Canons ever assemble in order to a fresh Election.

Upon the whole, one cannot but assent to the Justness of Mr. *Wharton's* Reflection on this Occasion, namely, that we are not too hastily to give Credit to the Relations of the Monkish Historians on the Subject of Elections, since in their Narrations of the Squabbles of the Monks and Canons at such Times, they are apt to be partial, and to take a Side. And certainly, at this Distance of Time, and amidst all this Dissonance and Disagreement amongst Authors, 'tis difficult, and in a Manner impossible to determine, which of these Accounts is the true one.

We come now to *William de Monte Pessulano*; Abbot *Richard* being either dead, or having relinquished his Pretensions, the two Chapters entered, according to *Matthew Paris* [b], and *Matthew of Westminster* [c], on a new Election, and the Chapter of *Coventry*, with some of the Canons of *Lichfield*, made Choice of *William de Monte Pessulano* for their Prelate. This is very agreeable likewise to the *Annals of Tewkesbury*, only it is there said, *William* was elected by the unanimous Voice of both Chapters [d]. However, the King would not accept him, being probably displeased on Account of the Opposition he had raised against his favourite, Abbot *Richard*, but was desirous of promoting the Interest of another [e], and some of the Canons of *Lichfield* concur-

[a] Tho. Chesterfield in Wharton's Angl. Sacr. p. 598.

[c] M. Westm. p. 310.

[b] M. Paris.

[d] So also Bishop Godwin.

[e] Authors do not tell the Name of this Person.

red with him, which occasioned a tedious and very troublesome Contest [f], wherein was expended, on one Side, for so I understand it, no less than 245 l [g]. In short, the King gave *William* all the Trouble he could, and for his Sake endeavoured every Way to vex and harrafs the Monastery of *Coventry*, and yet *William* was a Man of great personal Worth and an unblemished Character, "Vir bonus, et sine querela et ambitione [h]." "Vir sanctus, et moribus et scientia praeditus [i]." But this notwithstanding, the King became the declared Enemy of the Foundation at *Coventry*, annoying the Prior and Convent by all possible Methods; in-somuch that the House suffered extremely, what from the King, and what from the adverse Part of the Canons of *Lichfield*, even so much, that the Members of the Convent were forced to disperse and fly to other Houses [k]; that of *St. Alban's*, in particular, receiving and entertaining, for a Year and some odd Months, the Prior, with some of his Monks, his Servants, and Horses [l].

But what becomes of *Dr. Willis*, all this Time? who tells us, that, on the Death of *Richard*, *William de Monte Pessulano* was nominated to this See by the Pope; this is contrary to the Testimony of all Authors.

But to proceed in our Narrative; the Pope ever tender, in Cases where he was not himself interested, of disobliging the King, delayed to grant *William* Confirmation, whereby the Opposition made to his Consecration by the King, was still subsisting A. 1245. when being at *Lyons* to solicit it, his Patience was quite tired out. For hearing that Master *Wil-*

[f] Unde sumptuosa utrobique lis oritur, et morosa, M. Paris, p. 598. I note the Passage, on Account of the Word *morosa*, which is not from *moris*, *moris*, but *mora*, *morae*, and is often used in these Authors for long, tedious or dilatory, as M. Paris, p. 445. 484. 540. [g] M. Westm. [h] M. Paris. [i] M. Westm. See also Bishop Godwin. [k] Idem. [l] So also Bishop Godwin.

liam de Droubedale, a diligent Advocate of his was dead [m], and finding that the King persisted in refusing his Assent to his Election, and that Master *Laurence de St. Martin*, the King's Proctor, was his strenuous Adversary and constant Accuser [n]; moreover, that the Canons of *Litchfield*, those that concurred with the King, were continually persecuting him in the most hostile and implacable Manner; and considering withal that the Priory of *Coventry* was miserably oppressed by the King and his Agents on his Account; touched with these melancholy Reflections, he heartily lamented that ever he had been chosen; and thus depressed by inward Grief, he went to the Pope, and told him with a faltering Tongue, that the King and his Council were banded together against his Innocence, persecuting him in a Manner he no Way deserved; and tho' he should obtain the Mitre, to which he had been canonically elected, yet, he was sensible, he should enjoy no Peace in *England*, and therefore he resigned it into his Holiness's Hand. The Pope had scarce consented to the Acceptance of his Resignation, before *William* withdrew, well pleased with what he had done [o]; but the Bystanders, as *Paris* observes, were much concerned at the King's Injustice to *William de Monte Pessulano*.

This Transaction of *William's* Resignation had no sooner transpired, but Bishop *Grosseteste*, who was then at *Lyons* [p], immediately began to bestir himself, and to recommend his great Favourite, the Dean of *Lincoln*, then upon the Spot, to his Holiness, for this Prelacy. The Bishop was the first

[m] *Lugubriter expirasset*, M. Paris, p. 660. as if there had been something tragical in his Death. [n] He was employed by the King to complain of this Grievance, amongst others, that Prelates were elected without his Consent, M. Paris, p. 656. Laurence was afterwards Bishop of Rochester, on which Occasion Wikes, p. 48. calls him erroneously *de Sancto Martyrio*. Vide plura de eo in M. Paris, p. 616. and the Note on Rapin, I. p. 318. [o] M. Paris. [p] M. Paris, p. 649. 707. M. Westm. p. 318. and see above.

Person who moved this Business, and principally promoted it; and by his sole Means, Interest, and Influence, *Roger de Weseham* obtained the Bishopric by *Collation* from the Pope [q], the King being not in the least consulted for his Consent [r], lest, says my Author, he should both be raising Cavils against this Promotion according to his Custom [s], and should further oppose an Election of a Prelate to this now long vacant See, to the Detriment of his Credit and Reputation, and the Good of his Soul [t].

But here let us stop a Moment and reflect. This was a most insolent and audacious Act in the *Roman Pontif*; a manifest and insufferable Incroachment on the King's Prerogative, and the Rights of the Chapters of *Litchfield* and *Coven-try*; for though the Kings of *England* were now stripped of the Investiture of their Bishops, and the Popes, by continued Artifices, had converted the Right of Nomination, formerly inherent in them, into capitular Elections, yet the Privilege of approving and assenting continued to be an undoubted Prerogative of the Crown [u]. No Sovereign, either of this, or any other Country, could even sit down with less than this; for if Prelates were to be imposed upon them against both their Inclination and Approbation, it might often happen, especially in these turbulent Times, that the Sees would be filled by those who were professedly the King's Enemies, and the Disturbers of the public Peace, and the Regale conse-

[q] The *Monasticon* says the Pope *Contulit*, from whence comes the Expression of *collating*, when a Prelate gives a Benefice of his own. See also *Monast.* III. p. 225. 235. and the Quotation from M. Paris below.

[r] M. Paris, p. 661.

[s] M. Westm. p. 310. M. Paris, p. 661. where I read *et istam pro et ipsam*; Bishop Godwin, p. 317. cites it, *et hanc*.

[t] He alludes to the King's late hard Treatment of William de Monte Pessulano, and other like Actions of his. And yet *Leland* says, *Roger de Weseham* had the Bishopric from the King, *Leland* in *Tanner*, where see the Bishop's Note; and he has led Mr. *Wood* into the same Error, *Hist. et Antiq.* lib. i. p. 71.

[u] See Dr. Blackstone's Introduction, p. x.

quently would be absolutely reduced to nothing. But nevertheless, this Step is little to be wondered at, in a Person of *Innocent's* Character, who was one of the most rapacious Wolves, that ever filled the Holy Chair. And indeed this Outrage upon the King, great as it was, was but trivial, in Comparison with that of his Predecessor of the same Name, in the Affair of *Stephen Langton*, Archbishop of *Canterbury* [x], and that Pope's other Dealings with King *John* [y]. And I may add, was no more than equal to the Act of *Gregory IX.* when by his own Authority he conferred the See of *Canterbury* on Archbishop *Richard* [z].

But though this violent and illegal Step be no more than might be expected from *Innocent*, is it not strange Bishop *Grosseteste* should so warmly promote it? and that Dean *Weseham* should concur in it? I protest, I don't know how to exculpate my two Friends on this Occasion.

~~—~~ *— pudet hæc opprobria nobis*

Et dici potuisse, et non potuisse refelli.

Another Incident happened at *Lyons*, wherein, as I fear, these two great Men don't stand perfectly clear; 'tis my Duty nevertheless to report it. When the Pope first came to that City to hold the Council, his Wardrobe was consumed, with all its Contents. It was suggested by some, that the Room was set on Fire on Purpose, to afford his Holiness a Pretence for asking a Subsidy from the Prelates that were to assemble at the Council. But be this as it will, the Conflagration extended further than was expected or intended, and destroyed, as was asserted by many, that Instrument, whereby King *John* made his Kingdom tributary to the

[x] See the Life of *Steph. Langton*, in *Matth. Parker*.

[y] *Rapin's History* in that Reign, and *Dr. Inett's Orig. Angl. Tom. II.*

[z] *Rapin*, I. p. 303.

Pope [a]. What did *Innocent* do, in remedy of this unforeseen Evil? He caused the *English* Prelates that were present at the Council, to sign a new Act of the same Kind, and I suspect the two Friends, Bishop *Grosseteste* and Bishop *Weseham*, both of them so lately obliged by his Holiness, and in a way so extraordinary, could not be dispensed with from subscribing their Names. “ Misit igitur [Papa] ad singulos
 “ Episcopos *Angliæ* præciens districtissime, ut quilibet eorum illi chartæ detestabili, quam lacrymabilis memoria Rex *Anglorum Johannes*, reclamante Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi *Stephano*, infeliciter confecit de tributo, *signum suum apponeret*, ut magis roborata perpetuaretur [b].
 “ Quod ipsi Episcopi timore *inexcusabiliter effæminati*, non sine enormi Regis et Regni, prohi dolor! fecerunt præjudicio. Unde cum Dominus Rex hoc audisset, in maximam iram excandens, juravit, quod etsi etiam Episcopi turpiter sint incurvati, ipse firmiter stare pro regni libertate; nec unquam, dum vitales carperet auras, censum sub nomine tributi curiæ *Romanæ* perfolveret. Porro Episcopus Londinensis *Fulco*, ultimus, et invitus, in arcum prævum versus, signum suum dictæ chartæ apponens, minus aliis meruit reprehendi. Simili quoque modo, cuiusdam amplæ chartæ transcriptæ de verbo ad verbum, secundum chartam bulla papali communitam, de sententia Depositionis in Imperatorem *Fredericum* lata, apposuerunt omnes Prælati signa sua, tam ad majorem roborationem, quam memoriam rei sempiternam. Et sic soluto Concilio, &c. [c].”

'Tis plain, these Transactions passed at the very Close of the Council, and after Bishop *Weseham* was consecrated; and that not one of the *English* Prelates refused their Hands,

[a] M. Paris, p. 658.

[b] Here 'tis intimated, that the original Instrument was not burnt, but that this Act was only intended to strengthen and corroborate it.

[c] M. Paris, p. 681.

Fulco Basset being the most reluctant, and the last that signed; and therefore I doubt our two Prelates concurred with the rest, in this blameable Act, fraught with so much Dishonour to the Imperial Crown and Dignity of this Realm. This however was not a Fault peculiar to them, since they share it in common with the other *English* Prelates, who were unboundedly submissive to his Holiness at this Council.

Roger was consecrated Bishop of *Coventry* and *Lichfield*, (for that was his Stile, though by Writers he is often called Bishop of *Chester* [d], by Reason that this See had once been placed at *Chester*, and that this County Palatine still continued to be part of the Diocese) by the Pope himself [e] A. 1245, along with *Richard de Witz*, Bishop of *Chichester* canonized afterwards for a Saint. And the Ceremony was performed notwithstanding the Appeal of the King's Proctor, who protested vigorously against it, alleging that the King's Assent ought to be previously obtained. But he was told openly, that since the King abused his Dignity and Privilege [f], he had made himself unworthy to have so much Regard shewn him; and thus, says *M. Paris*, the Honour and Dignity of the King and his Kingdom, were, for his Sins, exceedingly debased [g]. The Pope made a Pretext of the hard Usage *William de Monte Pessulano* had so

[d] By *M. Paris*, *M. Westm. Leland*, &c. This is common likewise of other Bishops of this See, see *Tanner's Bibl.* p. 278. in Not. Archbishop *Parker*, by a bad Mistake, p. 246. makes the Bishop of *Chester* and the Bishop of *Coventry* two distinct Persons.

[e] *M. Paris*, p. 661. So that Bishop *Godwin's* Expression is not so clear and full as it ought to be, "ad Rogerum vero quod attinet, annuente Papa, consecratus est Lugduni, &c." there was more than an Assent, his Holiness doing the Act himself.

[f] He means his Privilege of assenting, which he had refused so long, and so obstinately, in the Case of *William de Monte Pessulano*, and other Instances. See *M. Paris*, p. 660.

[g] "Et sic Regis, et Regni ipsius, regis peccatis exigentibus, dignitas vacillabat," *M. Paris*, p. 660.

lately

lately met with from his Highness; but let this Allegation amount to what it would, the Pope had no Grounds for thinking Dean *Weseham* would be a Person at all more acceptable to the King, than *William de Monte Pessulano*, considering his Highness's express Exception against him at *Duresme* [b], and therefore his Proceedings here were the more arrogant and barefaced [i].

Now when the King came to be apprized of these Consecrations at *Lyons*, he ordered the temporal Profits of the two Sees of *Chichester* and *Coventry*, to be paid into his Treasury [k]; but the next Year, in *April* or *May*, according to *M. Paris* [l], he was moved by Intreaty, and the Interposition of Friends, to restore to our Bishop his Barony, on Account of the Sweetness of his Manners, which made him beloved by all; "Eo quod esset Vir benignissimus, et omnium habere favorem [m]."

It was at this time that Bishop *Grosseteste* separated the Church or Rectory of *Aylesbury* from the Deanry of *Lincoln*; esteeming that Dignity, with this great Prebend annexed, to be too richly endowed, and to occasion the Deans to have it too much in their Power to oppose and confront the Bishop of that See. But here it should be remembered, in order to obtain a true Idea of the Opulency of this Prebend, that it consisted at this time, both of the present Prebend of *Aylesbury*, and that of *Milton-Ecclesia*, as likewise of the four Chapels of *Burton*, *Querendon*, *Stokes*, and *Bucklond*, which were all severed from it, and appropriated to the Dean and Chapter in Common [n]. His Lordship appre-

[b] See above. [i] The King, he might fancy, would the easier overlook these Matters, because he had before consecrated Boniface, the Queen's Uncle, Archbishop of Canterbury. [k] *M. Paris*, p. 661.

[l] Pag. 706. *Willis* and *Wharton* say, Jan. 1. 1245-6. 25 Mar. Pat. 30 H. III. MS. Anstis, cited by Dr. Richardson, which, I presume, may be the Truth. [m] *M. Paris*, p. 706.

[n] *Browne Willis*, II. p. 219. and the Latin Extract below.

hended

hended no Disturbance from his fast Friend *Roger de Weseham*, and therefore, in the Year 1239, when he succeeded to the Decanal Dignity, he permitted him to enjoy this vast Prebend, as the Deans his Predecessors had usually done : But he layed hold of the present Opportunity of making an Alteration, and conferred the Prebend on *Robert de Marisco*, to the great Prejudice and Injury of his Church, as was then thought, “ non sine magno et multo Ecclesiæ suæ præjudicio, ut multis videbatur, et injuria [o].”

The Name of *Robert de Marisco* I have from *Matthew Paris*, and it appears from an authentic Instrument in *Anth. a Wood*, that he was a Canon of this Church [p] ; but Dr. *Willis*, I observe, delivers, that *William de Shirewood* was the first Person that enjoyed the Prebend of *Aylesbury* after it was separated from the Deanery [q], and consequently omits *Robert* entirely. The Ground of this Mistake was a hasty Inference drawn by this learned Antiquary from a Passage in an old Manuscript, which, having been likewise in other Respects falsely represented, I shall here insert.

“ Tempore *Henrici* Regis (Anno Regis nunc effluxis 54
 “ Annis et amplius) Dominus *Richardus de Gravesend*, quon-
 “ dam Episcopus *Lincoln*, assignavit in proprios usus, Deca-
 “ no et Capitulo Ecclesiæ *Lincoln*, ad Commune eorundem,
 “ Capellas de *Burton*, *Querendon*, *Stokes* et *Bucklond*, quon-
 “ dam pertinentes ad Præbendam de *Ailesbury* ; et Dominus
 “ Rex qui nunc est easdem capellas prædictis Decano et
 “ capitulo, seifitis pacifice de eisdem [r], per cartam suam
 “ confirmavit. Post appropriationem autem Capellarum
 “ prædictarum, idem Dominus *Richardus* Episcopus et [s]
 “ residuum Præbendæ prædictæ vacantis per mortem magistri
 “ *Will. de Shirewode* (cujus Tempore, et de ejus [t] assensu,

[o] M. Paris, p. 661.

[p] Wood Hist. Antiq. I. p. 94.

[q] Willis, II. p. 132.

[r] So I interpoint his Place.

[s] dele et,

[t] F. *cujus*.

“ facta fuit dicta appropriatio) contulit magistro *Johanni de*
 “ *Scharrestede* primo, et subsequenter Domino *Percivallo de*
 “ *Lavannia* Tempore dicti Regis *Henrici*; post cujus mor-
 “ tem Dominus *Nich.* Papa quartus mandavit Domino *Oli-*
 “ *vero* tunc Episcopo *Lincoln*, quod dictam Præbendam,
 “ viz. residuum prædictum deductis quatuor capellis, ut
 “ permittitur [*u*], appropriatio [*w*], divideret in duas Præ-
 “ bendas; et eas autoritate apostolica conferret duobus [*x*]
 “ Personis canonicis dictæ Ecclesiæ *Lincoln*: Qui quidem
 “ *Oliverus* dictam Præbendam divisit in duas, constituendo
 “ unam Præbendam de Ecclesia de *Ailesbury*, et aliam de
 “ Ecclesia de *Milton* juxta *Oxenford*, quæ fuit Portio dictæ
 “ Præbendæ, et contulit dictam Ecclesiam de *Ailesbury* in
 “ Præbendam magistro *Richardo de Hedrington*; post cujus
 “ mortem collata fuit eadem Ecclesia de *Ailesbury* per Per-
 “ missionem apostolicam magistro *Richardo de Havering*,
 “ qui eam nunc tenet, Tempore *Clementis* Papæ quinti.
 “ Ecclesiam vero de *Milton* contulit idem Dominus *Oli-*
 “ *verus* in Præbendam Magistro *Johannis de Monemue* et
 “ ipso postmodum consecrato in Episcopum *Landavensem*,
 “ contulit eam Magistro *Gilberto de Segrave*, quo defuncto,
 “ *Clemens* Papa quintus contulit eam *Galiardo de Mota* Car-
 “ dinali qui eam nunc tenet [*y*].”

This Account, *Willis* says, seems to have been drawn up about the Year 1278, in *Edward* the First's Time.

But this cannot be; it is expressly said, that Fifty-four Years had elapsed, when it was written. Now Bishop *Gravesende* was consecrated, by this Antiquary's own Account, A. 1258, and *Henry* III. died A. 1272, so that as the Trans- action first mentioned, passed between 1258 and 1272, Fifty-four Years added to the former Date gives 1312, and to the latter, 1326, insomuch that the true Date of the

[*u*] Leg. ut præmittitur.

[*w*] Leg. appropriatis.

[*x*] F. duabus.

[*y*] Willis, II. p. 219.

Memorandum must be between these two, about the Year 1314, when *Edward II.* and not *Edward I.* was upon the Throne. And accordingly instead of *Anno Regis nunc*, which affords no Sense, I read it, *Avi Regis nunc*, *Grandfather of the present King*, *Henry III.* standing in that Relation to King *Edward II.* I fix upon the Year 1314, because, as it could not be written later, *Clement V.* being then Pope, as is expressly noted, who died in that Year; so it could hardly be penned any sooner, since Bishop *Gravesend* can scarce be supposed to have had Time to make the Appropriation of the Chapels therein mentioned, in that Case.

This is very consistent with what is said of *Galliard de Mota*, then in Possession of the Prebend of *Milton Ecclesia*. He had it from *Clement V.* and, as the Antiquarian himself informs us, was collated A. 1312 [z].

Some may wonder how *Willis* should come to think of the Year 1278, for the true Age^s of this MS. since 54 taken from 1278, leaves 1224, which is very inconsistent with the Separation of the Prebend from the Deanery A. 1245. and *Shirewode's* being collated to it then [a]. But the Foundation of this was, as I take it, that he computed his Fifty-four Years, and specified the King's Reign thereupon, from the End of Cardinal *de Mota's* Incumbency, instead of the Beginning, though it accorded so ill with all other *Data*; for deducting 54 from 1333, when, as he observes, the Cardinal still enjoyed the Prebend of *Milton-Ecclesia*, there remains 1279. But he chose to make his Epocha one Year earlier, because there is no Intimation in the Memorandum, of the Cardinal's Death, and hence comes his Expression of *about* the Year 1278.

[z] Willis, II. p. 220.

[a] Idem, II. p. 132.

But enough of the Age of this Memorandum, which yet it was necessary to adjust, on Account of what follows. The Appropriation of the Chapels passed A. 1260, for 54 taken from 1314, leave 1260, and soon after that, *William de Shirewode*, Prebendary of *Aylesbury*, died. Now *Shirewode* dying at this Time, the Antiquarian rashly concluded, that he was the Person preferred to that Prebend by Bishop *Grossetestes* A. 1245. But this, as was above remarked, does not tally with his supposed Age of the MS. for, according to that, he must come into his Prebend A. 1224. However, as I said, he took it for granted, that *Shirewode* was the first Person that enjoyed this Prebend, after it was first severed from the Deanery; but this does not by any means follow; for the Memorandum takes no Notice of the Act of Bishop *Grossetestes*, in Respect of this Prebend, but begins its History with Bishop *Gravesend*. And there is certainly sufficient Room for another Incumbent, before *Shirewode*, *Robert de Marisco* for instance, who might be collated to the Prebend A. 1245, and was made Dean of *Lincoln* A. 1258, at which Time, as is probable, *Shirewode* succeeded to this Prebend. *Shirewode* was succeeded by *John de Scharrestede* about 1265, says *Willis*, not improbably; on the next Avoidance, it was given to *Perceval de Lavannia*, who held it, *Willis* says, A. 1285, he might have said before 1272, because he was collated during the Life of *Henry III*, who died that Year.

But that I may add one Word more concerning *Robert de Marisco*, without entring minutely into his Affairs, which I shall not do here, he was a Canonist of great Repute, and a prime favourite of Bishop *Grossetestes* [b]. The Bishop made him Archdeacon of *Oxford*, (a Post of great Importance [c]) his Official [d], and at length the Depositary of

[b] Annal. Burton, p. 398.

[c] See above.

[d] M. Paris, p. 802. Wood, Hist. Antiq. p. 94.

his entire Prelatical Jurisdiction [e]. He was at last Dean of *Lincoln*, but not till after the Death of the Bishop, viz. A. D. 1258 [f]. This was the Time, as above conjectured, that *William de Shirewode* succeeded him in his Prebend of *Ailesbury*. *Willis* says expressly, he was constituted Dean 1258, I suppose after 29 June that Year, for then he was only Archdeacon of *Oxford* [g]. In the *Monasticon* the Date is 1260 [h], but I presume we may rely here on Dr. *Willis*. However this Author could not discover how long he held this Dignity, but I imagine till 1263, when *William de Lexington* occurs possessed of it; he was certainly living, and Dean of *Lincoln* A. 1262, for it is written in the *Annals of Burton* [i], that the King that Year “ recovered the Advowson of the Church of *Esseburn* [k], against *Robert de Marisco*, Dean of *Lincoln*, which the Deans of *Lincoln* had for a long Time possessed, and had received a Pension from it, formerly, of Fifty Shillings, and at that Time of Fifty Marks [l].” Some may be at a Loss to imagine, what kind of Right the King could set up, since this Rectory of *Ashburn* had been given to the Church of *Lincoln* as long ago as *William Rufus’s* Time [m]; and afterwards, by dividing the common Estate there, had been appropriated to the Dean. But it was the Custom, in these Reigns, for the Crown, in order to raise Money, to send the Justices Itinerant into the several Counties, and to issue out *quo Warranto’s*, thereby obliging the Monks and Ecclesiastics to produce their Titles to their respective Manors and Estates, and to extort from them, on the footing of some

[e] M. Paris, p. 802.

[f] Willis.

[g] Wood Hist. Antiq. I. p. 106.

[h] Monasticon, III. p. 106.

[i] Idem, p. 446.

[k] Ashburn, Com. Derb.

[l] This last Payment was established by an Ordination A. 1240. MS. Chartulary of the Dean.

[m] The Instrument of Donation is extant in the Dean’s Chartulary.

pretended Deficiency, large Fines and Compositions. On these Occasions, the Crown often procured very groundless and iniquitous Sentences, of which, no doubt, this was one; which however was soon reversed, the Dean being speedily reinstated in his Rectory. I think it probable, that *Robert* died A. 1263, in the Beginning of the Year.

From this Step of Bishop *Grossetestes*, in alienating the Prebend of *Aylesbury* from the Deanery, some have imagined, that *Roger de Weseham*, the short Time he was Dean, had occasioned the Bishop some Trouble, by his untoward and mutinous Behaviour; and that the Opposition the Bishop had met with from him, was the Motive and Inducement for his procuring him the See of *Coventry*, and thereby removing him, as it were, out of the Way. This is openly asserted by Mr. *Wharton*, who writes from *Matth. Paris*, “*Id a Roberto Episcopo factum est vafro consilio,*” (Mr. *Wharton* is here speaking of *Weseham*’s Advancement to the Episcopate) “*ut Ecclesiam Ailesburiensem a Decanatu*” “*Lincolniensi jam vacante subtraheret.* Decanos enim sibi” “*jam diu recalcitrantes expertus, eorum Insolentiam, dempta*” “*ubertate nimia, refecare voluit [n].*” Bishop *Godwin* softens the Matter something in his Representation, for he only says, “*In hoc negotium eo studiosius Lincolniensis incubuit, quod*” “*cum consueffent sæpe Decani — ex Decanatus illius ubertate*” “*— contra Episcopum suum recalcitrare, vacanti jam Decanatu*” “*tui decreviffet Rectorem Aylesburiensem subtrahere.*” As if this was joint Motive. But this, perhaps, is saying too much. That Bishop *Grossetestes* dismembered the Prebend from the Deanery at this Time, embracing this Opportunity of exerting an undoubted Right, is certain; but that this was his Motive for recommending the Dean to the Pope for the See of *Coventry*, or that he had found any ungrateful Returns from the Dean, or any disobliging Carriage in him, is by no

[n] Angl. Sacr. I. p. 440.

Means apparent, neither do *Matthew's* Words imply either of these two Things; they are these, "Episcopus igitur "*Lincolniensis*, suum in hac parte consequutus desiderium, "*Ecclesiam de Aillesbiria*, quam ex multo tempore desideraverat a Decanatu *Lincolniensi* (eo quod credebat Decanum ex ejus ubertate cornua audaciæ assumentem, contra "*Episcopum Lincolniensem* recalcitrare) radicitus sequestrare "*et abalienare*, statim et incontinenti ipsam magistro *Roberto de Marisco* econtulit, &c. [o]." All that can be collected from hence, is, as I said, that the Bishop took this Opportunity of doing it; he had been desirous of effecting it *ex multo tempore*, I presume from the Time he first experienced the Disobedience of *William de Tournay*; but *Roger de Weseham* being a Person he could perfectly rely upon, and one remarkable for the Sweetness of his Temper, to say nothing of the Load of Obligations he had already heaped upon him, he would not divide the Preferment on his Accession, but suffered the Prebend and the Deanery to go together to him as usual, but now that he could not tell who was likely to be appointed *Weseham's* Successor in the Deanery, probably one of the disaffected Members of that turbulent Body, the safest Way, he thought, was, to part the two Benefices. If we reflect, there was Inducements sufficient for the Bishop's exerting his Interest with the Pope in Favour of *Weseham*, without this low View, namely, that long Intimacy and Friendship that had subsisted betwixt *Weseham* and himself, together with the personal Merits of the former, and his known good Qualities; insomuch that it would be highly uncharitable, and injurious to *Grosseteste's* great Character, to impute his friendly Interposition to any other Cause, and at the same time almost absurd to surmise, that even the Dean, in the Execution of his Office, had

given his Lordship the least Disgust or Uneasiness, a Conduct so foreign from his Character, and so unnatural to him. 'Tis true he had been installed, during the Contest betwixt the Bishop and the Chapter, as before related; but it at no time appears, that he ever took any Part in it, the Dean's Name seldom occurring on the Occasion, but only that of the Canons; and as the Quarrel began before his Time, so it proceeded, without his intermeddling, till its final Determination by the Pope; and whereas *pendente lite* nothing could be done on either Side, the Dean had no Cause or Reason to take a Side, or do any Act, that might disoblige or give offence to the Diocesan, his indulgent and most munificent Patron. 'Tis true, he went with the Canons to Lyons, about this Business, as has been mentioned above, but that he was obliged to do *ex officio*, and consequently might do it, without giving any Umbrage or Offence to the Bishop. This however is very certain, that the Conjunction of Time was extremely favourable to our new Prelate; Bishop Grosseteste could serve him *then*, but soon after, he was upon such bad Terms with Pope Innocent, that it would not have been in his Power to have obtained a Favour of such Importance from him, in the Behalf of any Friend.

Bishop Weseham sat eleven Years, and then resigned his Bishoprick. The Principal of his Transactions, during his Prelacy, so far as now they can be discovered, his Register being long since lost, as likewise are the cotemporary Registers at Lambeth, are these:

A. 1245. the Pope, Innocent IV. granted King Henry III. who was generally a great Favourite with him, all his Chapels, exempting them from the Jurisdiction of their respective Ordinaries, and subjecting them immediately to the See of Rome [p]. This was a gross Usurpation upon the Rights

of the several Diocesans; and what aggravated the Evil, many Churches were desirous of including themselves in this Grant, and reaping the Benefit of Exemption, that had no Manner of Title to them. Thus the Rectors and Canons of *St. Mary at Stafford*, *St. Mary at Shrewsbury*, *St. Mary Magdalen of Bridgenorth*, of *Tetenhal*, and some other Parish Churches and Chapels to them belonging, in the Diocese of *Coventry* and *Lichfield*, pretended to be King's Chapels, and under that Pretence withdrew themselves from the Episcopal and Archidiaconal Jurisdiction. But their Plea was not allowed by the Pope, for he instantly directed his Bull to Bishop *Weseham*, establishing the antient and accustomed Power of the Ordinary over them [9]. But this notwithstanding, these Collegiate Churches persisted in the Claim of Exemption, and gave the Bishop of this Diocese so much Trouble, on that Account, that at length he was forced to compromise Matters with them, and by an Agreement, in the Reign of *Edward I.* to allow of the Exemption under certain Conditions and Stipulations. The King assented to this Act, and the Churches of *Derby*, *Pentrich*, and *Wolverhampton*, were Parties to it, as well as those above-mentioned [r].

In the same Year, the Bishop was joined in a Commission, by the Pope, with the Bishop of *Lincoln*, *Worcester*, *London*, *Winchester*, and *Norwich*, about the adjusting and proportioning 6000 Marks amongst their several Sees, to be collected by Way of Subsidy for his Use. This Subsidy had been demanded of the *English* Prelates for the Pope at *Lyons*, before they set out on their Return home, and this Bull attended them on their Arrival [s]; but his Holiness receiving

[9] *Annals of Burton*, p. 304.

[r] *Dean's Chartulary*.

[s] This is another Instance of the immoderate Complaisance of the *English* Bishops in this Council.

no Answer from these Delegates, the King having expressly prohibited the Payment of any such Tallage, the Office was afterwards imposed upon the Bishops of *Norwich* and *Winchester*, A. 1246 [t]. The Money was to be collected from the Ecclesiasticks and the Religious, except the Monks of the Order of *Clugny* and *Sempringham*, the Templars and Hospitalers; and one Pretence for this large Exaction, no Doubt was, the Loss his Holiness had sustained by the Fire, as mentioned above. Our Kings before time had been so weak, as to give the Popes a yearly Subsidy, under the Name of *Peter Pence*; but after King *John* had resigned his Crown into the Hand of *Innocent* III. consenting to hold it of him, and to become his Tributary, the Popes began to think of levying Money upon the Clergy of *England*, by their own proper Power, without the King's Consent, and contrary to the Customs, the Rights, and Liberties of the Church and Kingdom [u]. We have a notorious Instance of this Usurpation in the Case before us, which could not fail of proving of the most pernicious Consequence, since it would infallibly open a Door for the most grievous Extortions and Oppressions in Time to come. 'Tis true indeed, Remonstrances were often made against such Impositions, and the King protested against this in particular; but the Efforts of Opposition were so feebly made, that the Popes always found means to gain their Ends.

A. 1251. the Bishop being sick could not attend the Meeting of the Prelates of the Province at *Dunstable* [w]. His Lordship had but small Enjoyment of his great Preferments. All the Time he was Dean of *Lincoln*, the Bishop and the Chapter were at Variance: and for the greatest Part of the Time he sat at *Coventry*, he laboured under a bad State of Health; for I am not assured that ever after this,

[t] M. Paris, p. 707:

[u] Ibid. p. 698.

[w] Ibid. p. 815.

he enjoyed a good Constitution : * However at this Time, in Pursuance of the religious Notions then prevalent, he founded a Morning Mass in the Church of *Lincoln*; for though I find no Notice taken of this Establishment in the Book, intituled, *Liber de Ordinatio Cantuariarum*, now remaining at *Lincoln*; yet it appears from an Instrument of his Lordship's elsewhere [x], that he effected this partly with his own Money, and partly with the Contribution of others, by the Hand of *Henry de Lexington*, Dean of *Lincoln*, his Successor; and the Duty of the Priest officiating, was, to pray, id
 “ pro animabus *Lincolniensium*, et *Coventrensi* et *Lich-*
 “ *feldensi* Episcoporum, ac *Lincolniensis Ecclesie* Deca-
 “ norum, necnon pro animabus omnium fidelium defunc-
 “ torum.” By which he included, for the Enjoyment of these supposed spiritual Benefits, not only himself in his double Capacity of Dean of *Lincoln* and Bishop of *Coventry*, but also his two great Friends, Bishop *Grosseteste* and Dean *Lexington*; and the latter, as it proved in the Event, in a twofold Respect, both as Dean and as Bishop of *Lincoln*.

A. 1252, continuing still sick, he was absent from an Assembly of the Prelates about the Tenth granted by the Pope to the King [y].

In the same Year he caused a parochial Visitation of his Diocese to be made; and the Articles of Enquiry grounded upon those of Bishop *Grosseteste* for his Diocese of *Lincoln*, may be seen in the Annals of *Burton* [z]. I call this a parochial Visitation, because it is said to be after the Example of Bishop *Grosseteste*, who visited his Diocese parochially and personally [a]. But yet I think Bishop *Wesbam* did not go in Person, the State of his Health not permitting that.

[x] Dean's Chartulary, in *Wirksworth*; where the Instrument is dated at *Brehwode*, iii Id. Febr. A. Doi M. CC. LII.

[y] M. Paris, 849.

[z] Annal. Burton, p. 317.

[a] M. Paris, p. 815. Angl. Sacr. II. p. 347.

34 MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE

It appears from the Nature of these Enquiries, that the religious Houses were no Way concerned in them; and moreover, that though the Interrogatories of Bishop *Grosseteste*, A. 1236, were in Fact the Groundwork of these; yet several Articles were added to them by Bishop *Wesbam*, in Consequence of the Legatine Constitutions of *Otho*, A. 1237.

But as these Points or Heads of Enquiry discover to us much of the State and Condition of the Church at this Time, it would not perhaps be displeasing, should I exhibit a Copy of them in an *English* Dress.

1. Concerning the Life and Conversation of the Archdeacon [b] and his Family.
2. Of the Rural Deans, how they behave in their several Offices.
3. Whether any Layman farmed any Rectory, or was possessed of any Tythes.
4. Whether any Rectors, Vicars, Chaplains of any kind, or others invested with Holy Orders, were guilty of Incontinence, and with whom.
5. Whether any Witchcraft or Sorcery [c] was practised in the Parishes.
6. Whether any of the Beneficed Clergy, or Men in Orders, were married [d].
7. Whether any Clerks frequented the Nunneries, without a reasonable Cause.

[b] If the Bishop did not visit himself, we must suppose his Chancellor, or Vicar General, did it for him.

[c] *Sortilegia*, which, to take in the whole Sense, I have rendered Witchcraft or Sorcery.

[d] Some of the Clergy, it seems, were married, though directly against the Canons. Vide *Matth. Paris*, p. 452. it was a long Time after the first projecting of it, that the *Roman* Policy could get the Celibacy of the Clergy fully established.

8. Whether

8. Whether any Clerk in Holy Orders kept any Woman that was his Relation, or any soother, in his Family, from whence there arose any evil Suspicion [e].
9. Whether any Clerks, or Chaplains, were Frequenters of Alehouses [f], Chapmen [g], Usurers, Fighters, or went to Markets [h] in indecent Habits.
10. Whether Chaplains ordained by other Bishops, are empowered to celebrate Divine Offices without the Bishop's License, and by whom they are so empowered.
11. Whether Markets are any where held on the Lord's Day.
12. Whether Deacons hear Confessions, or administer other Sacraments, which are only permitted to Priests.
13. Whether the Rectors and Vicars were resident.
14. Whether any Clerk keeps in his House the Concubine of any Priest, or Clerk, or Layman.
15. Whether the Churches were dedicated [i].
16. Whether any had procured their Benefices simoniacally.
17. Whether any Chapel had been rebuilt, and whether such Chapel had obtained any Right or Privilege more than had been originally granted to it [k].
18. Whether any Vicars make themselves Rectors, or *Vice versa* [l].
19. Whether any by means of a long Lease, make themselves Rectors, or Vicars, or the real Possessors of any Tythes [m].

[e] The Bishops were expressly directed by Otto, to be strict in their Enquiries about the Matter of Concubinage, M. Paris, p. 452, and see the 14th Article below.

[f] Negotiatores.

[g] Exercentes mercata.

[i] Constitution of Otto, A. 1237.

[k] It sometimes happened that these Chapels acquired new Privileges on such Occasions, see the Protest of the Dean of Lincoln's Proctor, in the Case of Brampton, below.

[l] This Article is partly explained by the next.

[m] M. Paris, p. 450.

36 MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE

20. Whether any Rectory or Vicarage is let to Farm [n].
21. Whether any act as Rectors or Vicars, who are not instituted by the Bishop, or by some other properly authorized for that Purpose.
22. Whether any [o] make Agreement with their Priests [p], that, besides their certain Stipends [q], they should receive from another, Anniversaries or Trentals.
23. Whether any free Land of the Glebe, or Demesne of the Church, be let in Farm to Laymen [r].
24. Whether any Rent assigned to Lights, or other certain Purposes of the Church, are converted to the Use of the Rectors.
25. Whether the Vicarages are taxed by the Bishop [s].
26. Whether the Parishioners are any where compelled, after the Mass on *Easter* Day, to offer and take the Communion.
27. Whether any Priest extorts Money for Penance ; or for the other Sacraments, any lucrative Penances are enjoined [t].
28. Whether the Churches are served by honest Clerks, according to their Ability [u].
29. Whether Markets, or Sports, or secular Courts, are kept in sacred Places [w].

[n] V. infra, N° 23. and 27.

[o]. He means Chaplains.

[p] Rectors or Vicars.

[q] For *stipendia certo*, I read here, *stipendia certa*.

[r] M. Paris, p. 450.

[s] This relates to *Valors*, by which Tenth and First Fruits were paid.

[t] M. Paris, p. 449, 450. This was sometimes the Consequence of Farming.

[u] This, I take it, relates to the Number of the Chaplains or Assistants.

[w] Because they were sometimes held in Church-yards, though contrary to Canon.

30. Whether

30. Whether the Church-yards are every where fenced, and the Churches decently built and adorned, and the Holy Vessels are properly kept.
31. Whether the Canon of the Mass be perfectly correct.
32. Whether the Host be every where carried to the Sick with proper Reverence, and is kept as it ought [x].
33. Whether any Priest be negligent in visiting the Sick.
34. Whether any Chaplain, or other, converts the *Chrismalia* [y] to secular Uses.
35. Whether Adulteries, or other notorious Crimes, are any where to be corrected [z].

About this Time, for it was certainly before A. 1255, (it appearing from the Establishment of the Church of *Lichfield* then, which will be mentioned below, that these Prebends were already settled) he founded the two Prebends of *Ruiton* and *Bobenhul* [a], both in the County of *Warwick*; as likewise the third of *Bolton* in *Lancashire*, annexed to the Archdeaconry of *Chester* [b]. For this Purpose, as I conceive, nothing further was necessary than the Bishop's own Act, he being both Patron and Ordinary, confirmed under the Seal of the Chapter. The Rector of *Bolton* being then alive, this Ordination did not take Place, as to *Bolton*, till his Successor, *Roger de Meyland's* Time, who confirmed it, on the Death of the said Rector [c].

Ruiton consists of the Impropriation and Advowson of that Donative Curacy, and is under the Jurisdiction of the

[x] In a decent Pix.

[y] The Chrism, says Mr. Johnson, was a Composition of Oil and Balsam, blessed by the Bishop, to be used in Baptism.

[z] Annal. Burton, p. 317.

[a] Thomas Chesterfield, ubi male *Rintoun*. Willis supposes these Prebends to have been founded about 1245. before the Bishop was well warm in his Throne.

[b] Ibid.

[c] Ibid. See also below, p. 111.

Archdeacon of *Coventry*, and not under that of the Dean and Chapter. A List of the Incumbents is exhibited by *Willis*, down to *John Masson* inclusive, who was the famous Chronologer, and was admitted July 8, 1721, on whose Death, *Matthew Pilkington*, L. L. B. the learned Author of the *Evangelical History and Harmony*, and some other Works, was admitted 4 March, 1747.

The Prebend of *Bobenbul*, was endowed with the Impropriation and Advowson of that Parish, which is under the immediate Jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese; and the Incumbents after *Samuel Sturges*, who stands the last in *Willis*, run thus,

Matthew Horbery, M. A. now D. D. a Person of great Worth and Learning, and well known to the World by his excellent Theological Performances, admitted 30 July, 1736. On his Resignation,

Nathanael Sturges, M. A. was admitted 7 Dec. 1739.

Jeffrey Williams, M. A. admitted 15 Dec. 1744; on whose Death,

Samuel Pegge, M. A. was admitted, 29 Oct. 1757.

It may be proper to mention, now we are on the Subject of Foundations, that Bishop *Godwin* having said he had read, that *Roger*, Bishop of *Lichfield*, was the original Founder of the College, Priory, or Hospital of St. *John Baptist* at *Lichfield* [d]; Bishop *Tanner* thereupon Remarks, "That it does not appear which *Roger* it was; but he rather chuses to ascribe it to one of the *Roger's* in the Time of King *Henry III.* than to *Roger Clinton* in King *Stephen's*;" by which there is an Intimation that *Roger de Weseham* might possibly be the Author of this Foundation. But let us not do Honour to Bishop *Weseham's* Memory, at

[d] Bishop *Godwin*, p. 313. [e] *Tanner's Notitia*, p. 502.

the Expence of others, since it is clear, that this House was established before he was placed in the See, according to *Whiteloeke*; who, speaking of the Affairs of Bishop *Stavensby* that died A. 1238. has these Words, "*Burtona* istis diebus annectitur Collegio D. *Johannis* in *Lichefeldia*;" wherefore if the House was founded by any *Roger*, it must be by *Roger Clinton*, long before *Henry III.*'s Time

In *April* 1253. the Bishop was not present at the Parliament, by Reason of the bad State of his Health, "*pro Cestrensi autem absente*, says *M. Paris*, *valetudo manifesta allegavit [f]*." I imagine he had been for some time struck with the Palsy, the Expression of the same Author, where he speaks of his Death, seeming to imply as much, "*diuturna infirmitate, scilicet Paralyfi, excoctus [g]*."

However, in *July* this Year, he was so infirm, that an Act was then performed for him by a Suffragan; but the Instrument I learn this from, is so momentous in Respect of the late Cause concerning the Patronage of the perpetual Curacy of *Brampton [b]*, in this Diocese, and the County of *Derby*, that I shall here insert it.

"Memorandum quod Craffino S. *Magaretæ Virginis*.
"Anno Dni M^o.CC^o.LIII^o. in Dedicatione Capellæ de
"Brampton adjacentis [i] Ecclesiæ de *Cesterfeld* eodem die
"facta per Dominum *Brendan. Ardachadensem [k]* Episcopum
"Venerabilis Patris *Rogeri Coventrensi*. ac *Licbf.* Episcopi

[f] So *Walter Hemingsford*, p. 571. omits him amongst the Prelates then attending. [g] *M. Paris*, p. 953.

[b] The Contest was between *John Bowman*, the Dean of *Lincoln's* Clerk, and the Parishioners, who claimed a Right of Nomination. But the Verdict went in Favour of the Dean, A. 1758. at *Derby* Assizes, and a Decree issued thereupon in the Court of Exchequer.

[i] The Sense of this Word, and of *adjectionis* below, is that of *appertaining*, or *belonging to*, as is evident from what follows, "*Cum præfata Capella—pertineat*." See also the next Page, Note [b].

[k] Bishop of *Ardefert* in Ireland. Sir *James Ware*, n. 86.

"Suffraganeum

“ Suffraganeum proposuit *Rogerus de Cave* Procurator Dni
 “ *H. de Lexinton* tunc Decani *Linc.* Ecclesiæ prædictæ
 “ *Cestrefeld* Ecclesiæ Rectoris, quod cum præfata Capella ad
 “ prædictam Ecclesiam *Cesterfeld* matrem suam pertineat, et
 “ eadem Ecclesia quasdam oblationes, obventiones, et quæ-
 “ dam alia sicuti a membro in signum Adjectionis annuatim
 “ percipiat ab eadem Capella, ne in posterum, prætextu vel
 “ occasione talis Dedicationis vel Facti [1], quantum ad Pro-
 “ curationes Archidiaconorum, seu alia huc usque incon-
 “ sueta, Juri Ecclesiæ memoratæ vel prædicti Rectoris præ-
 “ judiciatur in aliquo vel per Temporis lapsum præscribatur,
 “ pro Jure Dni sui dicti Decani in scriptis appellavit. Præ-
 “ sentibus Dno Walker [m], Canonico Lichfeld. Ecclesiæ,
 “ M^{ro} Thoma de Bradford, Dno Rogero tunc Decano [n]
 “ Cestrensi, Roberto Capellano de Wyngerworth, Rogero
 “ de Dratton, Willielmo de Lameley, Roberto et Stephano
 “ Capellanis de Brampton, qui huic memorando signa sua
 “ apposuerunt [o].”

There was a Chapel at *Brampton* before, to wit, A. D. 1237 [p]; but at this Time it seems to have been rebuilt and enlarged, which occasioned a new Consecration. It still continued, you observe, dependent on the Rectory of

[1] See the 17th Article of Visitation above, and the Note there.

[m] He is entirely omitted by Browne Willis, Tom. I. but I suspect we ought to read *Walter*.

[n] Rural Dean.

[o] Dean of Lincoln Chartulary, in the Archives at Lincoln, Fol. 9. b. which was ready to have been produced at the Trial, had there been Occasion.

[p] Another Instrument in the Dean's Chartulary of that Year. 'Tis said there is an Inscription on one of the Walls, importing the Erection of it, A. 1155. but I question whether there was not a Fabric of some sort even before then, for in the Approbation of the great Rectories to the Church of Lincoln, by *William Rufus*, the King, gives also, “ *Capellas* “ *quæ sunt in Berewyc, quæ adjacent prædictis quatuor maneriis; id est,* “ *Rectoriis;*” *Brampton* was probably one.

Chesterfield,

Chesterfield. The Dean of *Lincoln's* Rights, as Rector of *Chesterfield*, being reserved and acknowledged, not only by the Appeal of his Proctor, which is here admitted, but the Consent of the two Chaplains of *Brampton*, given under their Seals. This Matter passed before the Existence of any Vicar at *Chesterfield*, concerning whom, and whose Rights, no Notice at all is taken; so that the Curacy, or Chapelry of *Brampton*, is older than the Vicarage of *Chesterfield*: the first mention I have ever found of the Vicar of *Chesterfield* is A. 1298. and, I conceive, he was first ordained A. 1268, in Pursuance of the Legatine Constitution of *Orbison*, that Year, for he directed, that the *Cistericans*, and all others, "who have Churches for their own Use, if Vicars have not been placed with them, go within six Month present Vicars to the Diocesans who are to institute them [9]." [1] his Lordship was so well recovered of his Indisposition, if there be no Mistake in this, as to attend Parliament; for *M. Paris* says, all the Bishops were there, except the Archbishops of *Canterbury* and *York*, and the Bishops of *Durresme* and *Bath*. But I suspect the Historian has omitted mentioning *Coventry's* Name among the Exceptions, on Account of his known Inability to attend. 7 Febr. 1254. *William de Manceter*, Dean of *Lichfield*, died, and *Ralph de Sempingham*, or *Sempringham*, was elected in his Room [2]. What Share Bishop *Weseham* had in this Transaction, otherwise than by approving and confirming Dean *Sempingham*, is not known; but this Event was too important to pass unnoticed, as likewise was the next, when

[9] Johnson's Collection of Ecclesiastical Laws, A. 1268. Article 22.]

[2] Thomas, *Chesterfield* in Angl. Sacr.

A. D. 1255. the Monks of *Coventry*, and the Canons of *Lichfield*, came to an Agreement, and confirmed it by their Hands and Seals, that, in all future Elections of Bishops by the two Chapters, the Number of Votes from each Place should be equal, though the Number of the Members of the two Chapters should happen to be different [s]. This was a wise and prudent Measure, and well calculated for the Prevention of those Animosities, which for such a long Series of Years had exercised and harrassed these Electors.

There was a Parliament again in *April* this Year, and we are tacitly given to understand the Bishop was present, by his Absence not being specified. But see the Remark above in the Year 1254.

However, the Bishop regulated this Year the Estate of his Church of *Lichfield*, an ample Account of which establishment may be found in the *Monasticon* [t]. This was done at the Request of the Dean and Chapter, and confirmed by the Prior and Convent of *Coventry*. The Bishop signed at *Heywode*, one of his Palaces, the 31st of *August*; but Archbishop *Boniface* did not confirm the Act till 12 *Febr.* 1259. however that happened, which was after Bishop *Wesbam's* Death. His Lordship confirmed, on this Occasion, the Constitutions of *Hugh de Nonant*, one of his Predecessors, concerning the Residence of the Canons of *Lichfield*, and certain other Matters relating to them [u].

This Year also a Precept came to him from the Dean of *Lincoln*, the Pope's Commissary in that Behalf, to cause Publication to be made of the Bull for excommunicating the Contraveners of *Magna Charta*, and *Charta de Foresta* [w].

[s] Thomas Chesterfield.

[t] Dugd. Monast. III. p. 224.

[u] Monasticon, l. c.

[w] Annal. Burton, p. 332. and see Dr. Blackstone's Introduction, p. lviii.

At last, being grown very old [x], and so very Paralytic that he was entirely unable to discharge the Pastoral Functions (you observe that for some time he had been forced to employ a Coadjutor or Suffragan) he obtained Leave of Pope *Alexander IV.* to divest himself of his See by Cession, which he did in the Presence of *Henry de Lexington*, Bishop of *Lincoln* [y], delegated by the Pope for that Purpose, at his Manor or Palace of *Brewode*, about *St. Nicolas's Day 1256* [z].

Thomas Wikes confounds his Resignation with his Death, when he says Bishop *Weseham* died A. 1256 [a]. His Death will be mentioned hereafter.

The Custom, on these Occasions, was, to make a Provision for the Cedent, out of the Revenues of the See; for if nothing was reserved for *Walter Mauclerk*, Bishop of *Carlisle*, when he resigned his Bishopric [b], it was because he entered the Order of the *Dominican Friars*, who being Mendicants, he was incapable of enjoying any Property. In other Cases, I presume, it was always done, and particularly for Bishop *Weseham*, as I understand by these Words in the *Annals of Burton*: "Provisio tamen prius eidem, ut decebat, de Domini Regis assensu et licentia speciali, Beneficio competenti [c]. And so the Additions to the History of *Lichfield*: "Donatus est Pensione ex Episcopatu [d].

[x] Godwin. [y] Mr. Wharton, by Mistake, calls him Dean of *Lincoln*. He had been Dean, but was at this Time Bishop.

[z] *St. Nicolas's Day* is 6 December, and this is the Account in the *Monasticon*, and in *Thomas de Chesterfield*; but the *Annals of Burton*, p. 299. and 366. fix it precisely to 4 December. *M. Paris* differs from all, when he says it was upon All Saints.

[a] *Wikes*, p. 50.

[b] *Wood's Hist. Antiq. I. p. 63.*

[c] *Annal. Burton*, p. 366.

[d] *Angl. Sacr. I. p. 447.*

What this Provision consisted of, is not specifically expressed; but it amounted to an annual Income of 300 Marks [e]. And 'tis certain, that the Bishop continued at *Brewode* till his Death, and died there, which makes it exceeding probable, that that Manor in particular was assigned him; for, I observe, that when *Nicolas de Fernham*, Bishop of *Duresme*, above-mentioned, resigned his Bishopric, A. D. 1249. no less than three Manors were allotted to him [f]; and the Abbat of *Peterborough*, on his Cession, I find, had one intated upon him [g].

It may be proper to note here, that the Bishops of *Coven-*
try at this Time, resided chiefly at *Heywode*, or *Brewode*, or some other of their Manors, and not at *Eccleshal*, though this Castle had been embattled as early as the Year 1200 [h]; and further, that the Cessions of our Prelates, both Bishops and Abbats, through bodily Infirmities, or old Age, were at this Time very frequent.

Roger de Meyland, upon the Cession of Bishop *Wesebam*, was elected to succeed him, and was actually chosen by both Chapters 31 January 1256-7 [i], which was as soon as well could be; he was consecrated 10 March 1257 [k]; and Bishop *Wesebam* departed this Life soon after, viz. on Sunday, May 20 [l]. He was buried at *Lichfield* under an Oratory of Wood, opposite to Canon *Radcliffe's* Tomb [m].

[e] Dr. Richardson from Pat. 40 Hen. III.

[f] M. Paris, p. 759.

[g] Ibid. p. 769. Walter de Whytlesey, p. 128.

[h] Dugd. Mon. III. p. 231.

[i] Thomas de Chesterfield. But some Copies say, 22 January.

[k] Annal. Burton, p. 386. Wikes, p. 52.

[l] The Annals of Burton say 21. viz. xii Kal. Jun. and Thomas de Chesterfield xiiii Kal. Jun. But Wharton, Willis, Tanner, all say 20 May, which is the Truth; so that we should read xiii. in both the Authors. Whitlocke says he died xiv. Cal. Julii, by Mistake for Junii.

[m] Whitlocke in Angl. Sacr. I. p. 447.

on *Tuesday, 22 May* [n], *Fulco*, Archbishop of *Dublin*, being present, and performing the Office [o], and was the seventh Prelate intombed in the Cathedral of *Lichfield*.

Evidence enough has been offered in the foregoing Memorials, to establish the Bishop's Character in the World as a Scholar. But to gain a full and perfect Idea of his Merit, we ought likewise to examine in what Manner he administered his Patronage, which cannot better be done than by briefly enquiring, who, and what Kind of Persons they were, whom he was pleased to promote to Stalls and Preferments in his Church.

His Lordship sat but eleven Years, that we cannot expect any Redundancy of Matter here; and another Misfortune is, that the Archives at *Lichfield* are lamentably deficient in these early Times, as will appear from the most cursory Inspection of *Browne Willis*. The Bishop's own Register is entirely lost; but this is the less to be regretted here, because the Bishops of *Coventry* were no great Patrons out of the Cathedral.

But notwithstanding these powerful Discouragements, something, I hope, may be produced to his Honour in regard to his filling the Stalls.

Ralph de Chaddeston [p], a Person of Eminence, occurs Treasurer of *Lichfield*, but that he was brought in by our Prelate is not absolutely certain; however I incline to believe so, by Reason that we hear no more of his Predecessor after 1248. *Ralph* was a Benefactor to the Fabric of the Church [q], and is thought by *Willis* to be interred in it.

[n] *Monasticon. Annal. Burton*, p. 386. yet Mr. Wharton says 24 May.

[o] *Annal. Burton*.

[p] This is his true Name, from the Village so called in Derbyshire, and not Chadston, or Chaddeston, as *Willis*, p. 409. See him, p. 378.

[q] *Willis*, I. p. 378.

We labour under the like Uncertainty in Regard to *Richard de Mepham*, Archdeacon of *Stafford*, A. 1259. as his Predecessor was A. 1244. from whence 'tis probable, tho' not certain, he was collated by Bishop *Weseham*. One would judge him to have been a *Kentish* Man, there being a large Parish of the same Name in that County. However he was afterwards considerably advanced, being Archdeacon of *Oxford* A. 1263 [r], and made Dean of *Lincoln* A. 1272 [s]. two Posts which had been filled by Bishop *Weseham* himself. *Richard* had been a Benefactor to the *Grey Friars* at *Oxford*, on their first settling there [t], and the Character given him in the Chronicle of *Osney*, is this, "Vir consilii et magnæ Literaturæ [u]." He is supposed to have died at the second General Council of *Lyons* A. 1274.

We enter now upon something better assured; *John de Basing*, or *Basingstoke*, so called from the Place of his Nativity in *Hampshire*, was a very extraordinary Person. He not only studied at *Oxford* and *Paris*, according to the Custom of this Age, but also went to *Athens* [w], a Step very uncommon for Scholars of our Nation at this Time to take. At *Athens* he heard the famous Lady *Constantina*, of whom *M. Paris* speaks such great Things [x]; and *John Leland* collects from this very particular, that the City of *Athens* must necessarily have been at that Time most flourishing in Science: "An non credibile est, says he, maturæ ætatis
" Præceptores illic magna potuisse præstare, ubi *Basingus*

[r] Wood Hist. I. p. 70.

[s] Ibid. Willis says, 1273.

[t] Wood Hist. I. p. 70.

[u] Ibid.

[w] Leland in Tanner's Biblioth.

[x] M. Paris, p. 835. who also says she was Daughter of the Archbishop of Athens.

" *Constantinam*,

"*Constantinam*, nobilem Fœminam, vix annos viginti nam-
 " tam, de penitioribus operosæ Naturæ Causis disputantem
 " magna cum autoritate audivit [y]." An Inference by no
 " Means absurd, since, as *M. Paris* testifies, " Hic Magister
 " *Johannes* intimaverat Episcopo *Lincolniensi Roberto* [Grosse-
 " teste] quodd, quando studuit *Athenis*, viderat et audierat ab
 " peritis *Græcorum* Doctoribus, *quædam Latinis incognita*
 " [z]." And so, speaking of *John* and *Constantina*, he says,
 " Et quicquid boni scivit in Scientia, ut sæpe asseruit, licet
 " *Parisiis* diu studuisset, et legisset, ab eâ mendicaverat." However, from *Athenis*, our inquisitive and studious Travel-
 " ler imported into his own Country many valuable *Greek*
 " Manuscripts [a].

It is remarked by *M. Paris*, that *Basing* first brought the *Greek*
 " Numerals to *England*, and taught them to his Acquaintance
 " [b]. Certainly, we must have been very low here in *Greek*
 " Learning, when our best and deepest Scholars were igno-
 " rant even of the Method of Reckoning, as practised by that
 " Nation. This, however, is a remarkable Epocha in the
 " History of the *English* Literature, being a most laudable,
 " though no very successful Attempt, towards the Reviving of
 " *Greek* Learning amongst us, after it had lain so long in a
 " torpid and dead State, as since the Age of *Theodore*, Arch-
 " bishop of *Canterbury*. But this is a Topic, only touched-
 " upon in this Place, since an Occasion will probably offer it-
 " self in the intended Life of Bishop *Grosseteste*, of considering
 " this Point with more Attention, and of drawing out such
 " Particulars as can be collected about it, with more Exact-
 " ness.

Bishop *Grosseteste* translated the *Testaments* of the twelve
 " Patriarchs out of *Greek* into *Latin*, being told of the Book.

[y] Leland in Tanner.

[z] *M. Paris*, p. 835.

[a] Leland in Tanner.

[b] *M. Paris*, p. 835.

by *John de Basing*, upon whose Information, the Bishop sent to *Greece* for it, and obtained it. *M. Paris* intimates, that this Work had been suppressed or secreted by the *Jews*; on Account of the open and manifest Prophecies contained in it relating to our Saviour: I shall recite his Words, because they want mending, “*Testamenta quæ constat esse de* “*substantia Bibliotheca, [l. Bibliæ] sed per invidiam Judæo-* “*rum dudum fuisse abscondita, propter manifestas, quæ in* “*iusdem patent, de Christo Prophetias [c].*” He fancied, if I have rightly corrected him, that the *Testaments* had formerly been Parcel of the original *Hebrew* Scriptures, and were concealed whilst they continued in an untranslated State; for it must have been out of the Power of the *Jews*, after a *Greek* Version was once made, to have kept them private to themselves. But this was never the Case, for, according to the Opinion of a very competent Judge [d], they were not so much as written in that Language, though *Dr. Grabe* thinks they were [e].

Matthew Paris pretends, the Testaments were unknown to the Christians in the Time of *St. Hierom*, “*Nec item* “*pore beati Hieronymi, vel alicujus Sancti Interpretis, ad* “*notitiam Christianorum (machinante Judæorum antiquorum* “*malitia) potuit quomodolibet devenire [f].*” But this is a Mistake, for this gross Piece of Forgery is older than *Origen*, and was probably composed in the second Century, or the Close of the first [g].

Some have thought the *Greek* Text of this Book, was a Translation made by *John Chrysostom* from an *Hebrew* Original; but the Grounds for this Opinion are not sufficient to support it [h].

[c] *M. Paris*, p. 835. See also, p. 597.

[d] *Fabricius Cod. Pseudepigr. V. T. II.* p. 759.

[e] *Grabii Spicilegium* l. p. 140. 143.

[f] *M. Paris*, p. 597. [g] *Grabe*, p. 131. seq. *Fabricius* ibid.

[h] *Tanner Biblioth.* p. 348. and see what is said above of its not being originally composed in *Hebrew*.

But to return now to *John de Basing*; he was personally known to *M. Paris* [i], who gives him this most accomplished Character, “*Vir quidem in trivio et quadrivio experientissimus, Græcis ac Latinis literis ad plenum eruditus* [k]. By *Trivium*, in the Language of these Times, were meant Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric; as by *Quadrivium*, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry, and Astronomy, were usually denoted; these altogether were styled the seven Liberal Sciences.

On his Arrival in *England* from his Travels, he was received by the Learned with great Marks of Distinction. *Bale* and *Pits* say, he was Archdeacon of *London* first, then of *Leicester*. The former does not appear, but he was possessed of the latter Dignity, A. 1238 [l], whereupon *Leland* says, “*Hoc Ego factum crediderim liberalitate Roberti Grossi* [m], *Episcopi Lindensis*, qui *Basingum* arcta Familiaritate sibi conjunxerat, utpote hominem Græcæ Linguae peritum.” No Doubt he obtained the Preferment from Bishop *Grosseteste*, who very probably made use of his Assistance in perfecting himself in the *Greek* Tongue, as likewise in translating the Testaments; but in this latter Undertaking, he moreover had the Help of *Nicolas the Greek* [n].

A. 1241. being then Archdeacon of *Leicester*, *John de Basing* was employed by Bishop *Grosseteste*, along with *William*, Archdeacon of *Huntingdon*, to carry a Message from his Lordship to the King, then in *Wales*, about the Collation of *Simon de London*, to the great Prebend of *Tame*, in the Church of *Lincoln*, and to expostulate the Matter with his Highness, who was disposed to favour *John Mansel*, his Chaplain, who, under the Royal Protection, and the

[i] *M. Paris*, p. 835.

[k] *Ibid.*

[l] *Willis.* *Leland.*

[m] *Leg. Grossi Capit.*

[n] *M. Paris*, p. 597.

Colour of the Papal Provision, had taken violent Possession of that Rectory. Things ran very high between the King and the Bishop in this Quarrel, but these Nuntios acquitted themselves so prudently in the Business, alleging such strong Reasons against the Papal Provision, and proposing to his Highness such a plausible Expedient, that *Mansel* declared he was no Way desirous of embroiling these two great Persons, and the King consented that the Affair should be respite. The Event was, that on his Highness's Return to *London*, and the Bishop's Arrival there, who came prepared to excommunicate all that should intrench upon the Dignity of his Church, *Mansel* repeated his Willingness to resign his Pretensions, and so the Bishop carried his Point [o].

As *Basing* incited the Youth to the Reading of Greek Authors, so to encourage and assist them in Undertaking the arduous Task, he translated and published a *Greek Grammar*. But here the Manuscript of *Leland* in *Trinity College Library* at *Cambridge*, says, he wrote a Book, *De Grammatica Græca*, which was dedicated to Bishop *Grosseteste* [p]. But whether it was a Composition, or only a Translation [q], the Title it seems was *Donatus Græcorum*, being intended to serve the same Purpose in Respect of the Greek Tongue, as the Rudiments of *Donatus* did for the *Latin*.

Bishop *Wesbeham*, after this, gave *John de Basing* a Taste of his Favour, constituting him on the Promotion of *Silvester de Everdon*, A. 1247, to the See of *Carlisle*, Arch-

[o] M. Paris, p. 571.

Dr. *Willis* gives a very wrong Account of this Affair; "*Simon de London*, he says, had this Prebend given him about 1241. by the Bishop; " but the Pope gave it to *John Mansel*, and he held it 1241. Vide "*Prynne's* Voluminous Collection, Tom. II. p. 595." According to him, *Simon* and the Bishop were defeated, and *John Mansel* obtained the Prebend; whereas the Case was just the contrary.

[p] Tanner.

[q] M. Paris calls it a Translation, p. 835.

deacon

deacon of *Chester* [s]; the Honour of which Preferment cannot be better expressed than in the Words of *William Whitlocke*,
 “ Insigniores Viri Archidiaconatu *Cestriae* semper sunt Donati,
 “ Dominus *Robertus Grosseteste* seu *Groutbead*, Latine Capito
 “ dictus, qui factus *Lincolniensis* Episcopus—primò fuit Archi-
 “ diaconus *Cestrensis*. Archidiaconus etiam *Cestrensis* a *Baleo*
 “ scribitur fuisse *Johannes Basingus*, vir in trivio, et quadrivio
 “ ad plenum eruditus, ut *Parishensis* verbis utar, circa Annum
 “ salutis 1250 [t]. et *Ricardus Fitzrauf*, seu *Filius Radulphi*,
 “ *Cestrensis* Archidiaconus per Regem *Edwardum III* ef-
 “ fectus, post *Lichfeldensis* Decanus, ad extremum *Arma-*
 “ *chanus* Archiepiscopus, omni literarum genere floruit. Ut
 “ infinitos alios omittam; nostra fere memoria Eximii Viri
 “ D. *Johannes Vesey*, alias *Harman*, *Exoniensis* Episcopus, et
 “ D. *Guthbertus Tunstallus Dunelmensis* Episcopus, per hunc
 “ Archidiaconatum ad altiores Gradus ascenderunt. Pos-
 “ tremus D. *Gulielmus Knight*, Juris *Cæsarei* Professor, in
 “ Domo Capitulari *Lichfeldæ* Archidiaconus *Cestrensis* instal-
 “ latus est Anno MDLII [u].”

He held this Archdeaconry along with that of *Leicester* [w].

John Basing's capital Work, the *Greek Grammar*, which undoubtedly was a noble Atchievement at that Day, has been already mentioned.

He pulished another Piece, “ Quod ab *Atheniensibus* ha-
 “ buit,” says *Matth. Paris* [x], by which it should seem

[s] The Author does not apprehend it was the Custom at this Time for the Crown to dispose of a Benefice, on the Promotion of the former Incumbent to a Bishopric.

[t] This is very lax.

[u] *Angl. Sacra*, I. p. 457.

[w] *Willis*, II. p. 112.

[x] *M. Paris*, I. c.

to be a Translation [y]; the Subject was *De Concordia Evangeliorum*, I presume a kind of Harmony [z], which began, *Omnia tempus habent et suis*. The rest of his literary Performances may be seen in Bishop Tanner's *Bibliotheca*, wherefore I shall only add, that *M. Paris* very solemnly laments his Death, esteeming it a public Loss; it happened A°. 1252.

On the Death of this excellent and most accomplished Person *John de Basing*, *Adam Stanford*, or *Stafford*, was appointed Archdeacon of *Chester* by our Prelate. His Name is not inserted by *William Whitlocke* among those Men of Eminence that had enjoyed this Dignity, but he held it many Years, being in Possession of it A°. 1271. and 1280.

In his Time the Rectory of *Bolton* became vacant, which Bishop *Wesbam* had formerly annexed to this Archdeaconry, and it was accordingly given and confirmed to him by Bishop *Meyland* [a].

The Person to be next mentioned is *Peter de Radnor* [b], who was made Archdeacon of *Salop*, by Bishop *Wesbam*, on the Death of *Alexander de Swerford*, A. 1246. We don't find much recorded of this Dignitary, but in 1264. he occurs Prebendary of the Golden Prebend of *Hereford*, entituled *Episcopi*, or *Pœnitentiarii*, which whosoever enjoys is a Canon *de Jure*. The Office of this Prebendary was, to be the Bishop's Confessor, plainly shewing the Importance of the Post, and the Opinion *Peter de Equeblank*, then Bishop of that Diocese, had conceived of the Abilites of this Churchman.

[y] *Concordiam tamen Evangeliorum haud transfuliste dicitur. Tanner.*

[z] *M. Paris, l. c.*

[a] *Willis* indeed represents it, as if *Meyland* was the Prelate that annexed this Rectory to the Archdeaconry; but the Case was as I have here put it, *Meyland* only confirming the Act of his Predecessor.

[b] *Rodenor. Whitlocke.*

Some Years after this, to wit, A. D. 1269, or 1270, *Peter* quitted his Archdeaconry for the Chanellorship [c] of *Lichfield*.

He was a Benefactor [d], to the Cathedral of *Lichfield* where he was buried A. 1276.

Bishop *Weseham* appointed *William de Kilkenny* [e], Archdeacon of *Coventry*, some time between the Years 1246 and 1248. and his Choice was fully approved by the Event. *William*, amongst his other great Qualifications, was an eminent Canonist and Civilian, "Vir modestus, fidelis et bene literatus, in jure Canonico et Civili peritus et circumspectus [f];" and was happy withal in a fine Person, and a graceful Elocution [g]. He was bred at *Oxford*; and the University and the Townsmen being imbroiled A. 1236, and some of the Students committed to Jail on the Occasion, he, *Walter de Kirkham*, Dean of *St. Martin's*, *London*, and *Godfrey de Craucombe*, Steward of the King's Household, were sent down to *Oxford* to compose these Differences, which proved a very difficult Task [h]. In the Year 1250 [i], the King was pleased to honour and entrust him with the Custody of the Great Seal; as afterwards, A. 1254. he was Chancellor, or rather Vice-Chancellor, discharging the Office in the most unexceptionable Manner. I apprehend he was no more than Vice-Chancellor, for being this Year [k] chosen Bishop of *Ely*, *Matthew* calls him on that Occasion, "Domini Regis Cancellarium,

[c] Not the Treasureship, as Willis has it, p. 423.

[d] Whitlocke in Angl. Sacr. I. p. 446.

[e] Kilkem, M. Paris, p. 895. for Kilkeni. Kylk, abbreviatè, Ann. Burton, p. 366. Kirkenny, Hist. Eliensis, p. 636.

[f] M. Paris, p. 783.

[g] Idem, p. 895.

[h] Wood Hist. Antiq. I. p. 88.

[i] Malè Wharton 1240; an Error of the Press.

[k] So M. Paris, and the Annals of Burton, p. 330. about Michaelmas.

" vel

“ vel vices agentem Cancellarii,” as if *Radulphus de Diceto* was the Chancellor, and *William* the Assistant or Substitute ; and yet he is expressly stiled the Chancellor in the History of *Ely* [1]. However, he resigned his Office on his Advancement to the See of *Ely*. He was consecrated Bishop of *Ely*, Aug. 15 1255 [m], in *Savoy*, Archbishop *Boniface* being then there, but died Sept. 21 [n], 1256. at *Sougho* in *Spain*, being sent Embassador thither, and was buried at that Place ; a Monument, or Cenotaph, was erected for him nevertheless at *Ely*, where his Heart was interred, near the Altar of St. *Andrew* [o]. He was a Benefactor to the Church of *Ely*, and the University of *Cambridge* ; and to the former he bequeathed two hundred Marks for the Maintenance of two Chaplains, that should celebrate Mass for his Soul for ever. His Arms were Gules, five Crescents Or.

On the Consecration of *William de Kilkenny* to the See of *Ely*, A. 1255. as related above, *John de Kirkeby* was appointed Archdeacon of *Coventry* by Bishop *Weseham*, for he was in Possession, A. 1272. and 1283. and we hear of nobody between *Kilkenny* and him. In Parts and Learning and Preferments, he was no Way inferior to *William*, but his Conduct, I fear, was not so laudable ; for though his Character be that of, “ Vir utique honestus, providus et “ discretus in Spiritualibus, et in temporalibus circumspic- “ tus [p] ;” yet he is charged by *Thomas Wikes*, with neglecting his pastoral Care, through his Attachment to secular Affairs, particularly the Treasury, over which he pre-

[1] Angl. Sacr. p. 636.

[m] Philipot distinguishes not been his Election and Consecration, saying he was only elected then. Catalogue of Chancellors, p. 22.

[n] So the History of *Ely* ; but the Obituary says, Sept. 22.

[o] Historia Eliensis.

[p] Angl. Sacr. I. p. 638.

sided. In the conducting of this, he was withal so insolent and presumptuous, that if he had lived long enough, it was thought King *Edward I.* would have called him to a severe Account [q]. But this was long after the Death of Bishop *Weseham*. We must now run over his Preferments; he was Canon of *Wells* and *York*, and Dean of *Winburn* in *Dorsetshire* [r].

A^o 1272 he was made Chancellor of *England*, and continued in the Office two Years. 6 Jan. 1284 he was made Treasurer, and kept the Post till his Death.

26 July 1286 he was elected Bishop of *Ely* [s], on the Death of the famous *Hugh de Balesham*, Founder of *Peter-House*, *Cambridge*. He was no more than Deacon at this Time, but was ordained Priest by Archbishop *Peckham*, at *Feversham*, in *Kent*, 21 Sept. and the Day after was consecrated at *Canterbury*.

Relapsing, through Carelessness, after an acute Fever, he died, 26 March, 1290. and was buried, *Ralph de Walpole*, Bishop of *Norwich*, performing the Funeral Office, at *Ely*, before the Cross, on the North Side of the Choir, and the Altar of *St. John Baptist*. He was a Benefactor to the Convent at *Ely*, and is supposed to have given *Ely Palace* in *Holborn* to the See.

His Arms were, Argent, a Lion rampant S.

But to bring this List of Promotions to a Conclusion; *David de Sancta Fridefwida* was collated by Bishop *Wese-*

[q] Thomas Wikes, p. 520.

[r] He is omitted however by Dr. Willis, *Mitred Abbeyes*, II. p. 71. one John de Kirkeby was King's Justice, A. 1236; Mr. Wharton doubts whether he be the same Person. He probably was, Ecclesiastics being often employed as Judges. See Walter de Whytlesey, p. 129.

[s] The various Steps after his Election, with the Dates, may be seen in the *Historia Eliensis*, and Mr. Wharton's Notes.

ham to the Archdeaconry of *Derby*, A°. 1255; though, from the judicious Disposition which the Bishop made of his other Preferments on Persons of some Eminence, a Presumption may arise in Favour of this Ecclesiastic, yet nothing Material concerning him has come down to us.

Upon the Matter, and to sum up Bishop *Wesoham's* Character, in few Words, as it results from the foregoing Detail; though there be nothing transcendently great in his Life and Actions, nothing comparable to the Brillancy of Bishop *Grosseteste* in Parts and Learning, yet the Elogium bestowed upon him by *Matth. Paris*, “*Vir omni laude dignissimus* [1],” appears to be sufficiently justified.

He was unquestionably a pious good Man, witness his Foundations, and that last Act of his, the Resignation of his Bishopric on Account of his bodily Infirmities.

His Carriage and Temper were easy and sweet, gaining him the Love and Esteem of all, and even conquering the Violence of the King's Animosity, so justly raised on the Score of his hasty, illegal, and, in regard to Circumstances, provoking Consecration at *Lyons*. His Highness was induced to forgive, and the Pope and the two Prelates gained their Ends; but the latter, I doubt, paid dear for the Pope's Indulgence in this Affair, since the Transactions at *Lyons*, as far as we are furnished with any Lights by which we can judge of them, are far from being the brightest Part of our Prelate's Characters; I wish I could throw a Veil over them.

After his Promotion to the Mitre, he appears but little on the public Stage of the World; but that was owing to the valetudinary State of his Health, which from the Year 1251, or perhaps somewhat sooner, prevented his engaging in any active Scenes, insomuch that for half the Time of

[1] M. Paris, p. 193.

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His Pontificate, or thereabouts, he was a meer Invalid. But still, under this heavy Pressure, he seems to have conducted the Affairs of his See in the best Manner, and to have accomplished several Matters of great Consequence both to himself and his Church, which he took Care to fill with Men of known Learning and the most consummate Abilities.

His own Learning, in the last Place, is indisputable: since, along with the written Authorities above quoted in this Narrative, we have the highest and most momentous Testimony of that Age in his Favour, namely, the repeated Recommendations and Patronage of Bishop *Grosseteste*, who not only placed him in the Chair, which he himself had once filled at *Oxford*, but made him Dean of his own Church, and never ceased his good Offices towards him, until he had conducted him once more to an equal Station with himself, and had invested him with a See. Bishop *Grosseteste* was a *Grecian*, a Phenomenon very rare in this Age; and Bishop *Weseham* was closely connected with him in Matters of Literature and Erudition. *Weseham* had also a great Esteem for *John de Basing*, and even promoted him to a high Station in the Church, on the sole Account of the Merit of the Man, whose principal Excellency was his Acquaintance with the *Greek Tongue*; but yet I dare not aver, that our Prelate had acquired any Skill in that almost unknown Language. Let the Reader judge.

Theology was the Study he principally shone in, and he has left us a small Specimen of his Skill in this, which is still extant in the *Bodleian Library*, and is intitled, *Instituta, sive brevis Expositio articulorum Fidei*, &c. [u]. This Manuscript has been inspected, at my Request, and, to judge from the Extracts I have received, is very properly intitled,

[u] Tanner's Biblioth.

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Institutes, as it contains only the first Rudiments or Principles of Religion, though it seems to be intended, by some Expressions in it, for the Clergy, and to have been composed after he was Bishop. It begins with the Assertion of St. Peter, *Acts* iv. 12. that *Christ* is the only Name of Salvation; then enumerates the seven Sacraments, the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven Virtues, the eight Beatitudes, the ten Commandments, the seven deadly Sins; after which come these Words,

“ Obsecramus et desideramus, quod Fides Jesu Christi
“ operans per Dilectionem, in qua quidem Fides est mo-
“ tiva, per nos ac per vos [*w*] pure, integre, et expresse in-
“ notescat, et non solum idiomate Latino, sed imo proprio
“ sermone, subditis nostris magis not. et congr. prout Deus
“ vobis ac nobis inspiravit.”

He then mentions the twelve Articles of Faith, and then explains who are to be esteemed Heretics,

1. The Followers of *Arius* and *Pelagius*.
2. Such as trust in the Power of evil Spirits, as Magicians, &c.

He concludes thus,

“ Jubemus firmiter sub Poena Anathematis [*x*] ne quisquam
“ de cetero aliquid de prædictis facere præsumat, vel ab eo-
“ rum auctoribus consilium vel auxilium requirat, vel ipsis ali-
“ quando consentiat—Sed unusquisque vestrum omnium ista
“ et consimilia in vobismet et vestris subditis destruere faciat
“ et adnihilare; recurrendo ad ipsum, qui est Fons omnis
“ Sapientiæ et Scientiæ et contra omnia mala sufficiens re-
“ medium; de quo scriptum est,—Omnis sapientia a Dño
“ Deo est. Et alibi, A Deo est, omnis medela [*y*].” This

[*w*] This shews the Work was intended for the Clergy.

[*x*] He speaks here with the Authority of a Bishop.

[*y*] The whole of the MS. is comprized in about six Pages in Twelves.

no doubt, is equally pious and sensible; and whereas some of the Scholars of this Age, as *Grosseteste*, *Bacon*, *Bungey*, &c. have been formerly suspected, by the Vulgar at least, of diving into hidden and curious Arts, we have here, as well as in the fifth Article of Visitation, recited above, an explicit Declaration of our Prelate's, against all such illicit Practices. And *Grosseteste* himself, in his Book, *De Cessatione Legalium*, delivers his Opinion on this Subject in such Terms, as plainly shew, he was far from approving those diabolical Pursuits; for when *Vindicianus*, the Physician, on Occasion of a Man's ill-timing and misapplying a Prescription of his, told him, "Ideo male acceptus es, quia ego non iussi," *Grosseteste's* Observation is, "Ut, homines qui audissent, parumque hominem noscerent, non eum arte medicinali fidere, sed nescio qua illicita potentia, putarent [x]." Inasmuch, that the evil Surmises which some had entertained, in respect of the abstruser and more uncommon Studies of these great Men, were evidently all a Calumny, as has been more largely shewn by *Gabriel Naudæus*.

But to put an End to these Observations on Bishop *Wesham's* Character as a Divine; the Injunction for the Clergy to preach to the People in *English*, and instruct them in the Principles of Religion in their Mother Tongue, shews him to have been a Prelate of great Judgment and Integrity, as well as Learning, and that he regarded a preaching Ministry, contrary to the received Maxims of that Age, to be the best Method of edifying the People, and of dispelling those Clouds of Ignorance, which had so fatally, and almost so totally overspread them. These he was sincerely desirous of seeing dispersed, whilst others, more artful and designing, were inclined to be of Opinion, that it was more for the Advantage of the Hierarchy to keep the People in

[x] Bishop Grosseteste de Cess. Leg. p. 144. Edit. 1658.

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Ignorance; 'tis certain, that this narrow and untoward Notion was but too much the ruling Principle, both of the Court of *Rome*, and of many of the greater Ecclesiastics of the thirteenth Century; and that nothing could so effectually contribute to the Attainment of this base and unworthy End, as locking up the Scriptures, praying in an unknown Tongue, and preaching in the same to the People.

FINIS.



